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DEATH.

At the Shanghai General Hospital, on the 6th of September, CHR. NISSEN, of Heiligenhafen, Chief Officer of the steamer *Taiyick*, aged 32 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 2nd August arrived, per M. M. steamer *Melbourne*, on the 4th September (33 days); and the English Mail of the 9th August arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Khedive*, on the 7th September (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

It is said that the Russian Minister of Finance will shortly appoint additional commercial agents in China and Japan.

The American ship *Henrietta*, while on a voyage from Yokohama to Kobe, went ashore at Satoura on the 24th August and has become a total wreck.

A proposal by one of the Censors that the Chinese Dockyards and Arsenal, instead of being run by the Government, should be turned into mercantile concerns has been approved by the Throne.

M. de France, the new French Minister to Bangkok, arrived at his post on the 24th August.

Mr. A. G. Wise, Registrar of the Supreme Court of Hongkong, has been appointed Puisne Judge, in which position he has been acting for some time.

In recognition of his valuable services to France while he has been Minister at Peking, M. Gerard has, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, been promoted to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary of the first class.

M. Waeber, the Russian Charge d'Affaires in Korea, has been appointed Minister to Mexico. He is to be succeeded in Korea, as already announced, by M. Speier, lately Secretary of Legation at Teheran.

We learn with much regret that Mr. E. H. Parker, of H.B.M.'s Consular Service, has been obliged to send in his resignation on account of ill-health. Mr. Parker, who has been at home on leave for some months, is suffering from cancer.

His Majesty the King of Siam in the coming spring will make a European tour, says the *Singapore Free Press*. The precedent of the Shahzadah of Afghanistan, and the illustrated papers, may have encouraged His Siamese Majesty to the trip.

Telegraphic information has been received at Shanghai from Chining, in Shangtung province, says the *China Gazette*, that the Yellow River has burst its banks and flooded several districts. A tremendous lot of damage has been done to life and property and the flood waters are rushing into the Grand Canal.

The *China Gazette* says:—An agreement is said to have been arrived at between the directors of the China Coast Navigation Company and those of the Swatow Steamship Company, both of Hamburg, for a fusion of the two concerns, and meetings of the shareholders are to be called to ratify the agreement.

In reply to a petition by the Chinese shareholders in the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, in respect to the claim for calls, the Taotai of Shanghai has laid it down that the holding by Chinese of shares in foreign joint stock companies will not be officially recognised; *id est*, that the Chinese authorities will not assist the foreign companies to recover calls.

Li Hung-chang has been transferred from Tientsin to Peking, having been superseded in the office of Viceroy of Chihli and Superintendent of Northern Trade by Wang Wen-shao. Li is Senior Grand Secretary and will have the Presidency of one of the Six Boards. While his translation is nominal promotion it is believed that it really means putting him on the shelf.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says:—We have heard an unconscionable lot lately about the lost prestige of Britain in the East, and the enormous advantages that Russia, France, and Germany have gained at the expense of "perfidious Albion." But what is laying up the Members of the Tsungli Yamen now? By all accounts there is not a single member that is not suffering from severe paralysis, and we fancy Lord Salisbury infected them. At any rate, he has removed his base of negotiations from Peking to London.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received that the O. & O. steamer *Belgic*, while making Yokohama on her voyage from San Francisco, went ashore on Cape King, and it is feared she will be a total wreck.

The King of Siam has issued a proclamation requesting that the custom amongst the Princes and Nobles of making presents to His Majesty on the occasion of the Royal Birthday may cease. The proclamation adds that it would be a source of greater pleasure to His Majesty to know that princes, nobles, and officials did their duty faithfully and well than to receive presents.

A circular has been issued to the creditors of the New Oriental Bank, Limited, in Liquidation, stating that the proceedings taken against the directors and other officers of the Bank, in accordance with the resolution passed at the meeting of creditors held on 20th June, 1894, have resulted in the matter being compromised, with the sanction of the Court, for the sum of £18,216 17s. 9d., being the amount of the last dividend distributed to the shareholders by the directors.

The ruling that a British subject in China or Japan cannot bring a counter-claim when sued in the British Court was referred to in a case at Shanghai on the 3rd inst. Major Brothers, Limited, were sued by a Chinaman and they wished to bring a cross-claim. This was objected to on the other side and the ruling of the Privy Council in the *Chishima-Bavenna* case was referred to in support of the objection. The Judge expressed reluctance to decide such an important point if it could be avoided and offered to go into the matters of account; if he found any sum due from Major Brothers he would make an order; but if, on the other hand, he found the balance against the Chinese subject, then he would merely give an opinion that so much was due, without any order. The plaintiff's counsel said an expression of opinion from his Lordship would have the weight of a judgment if brought to a Chinese Court, and his instructions did not permit him to accept the suggestion. His Lordship accordingly dismissed the case with the note:—"The plaintiff elects not to proceed with his case. The case is therefore dismissed, with costs."

About a fortnight ago we, *N. C. Daily News*, noted a memorial by a Censor who proposed that in order to encourage inventions and manufactures the best way was to permit the people of China to build dockyards, ship-building yards, gun foundries, cartridge factories, etc., and form companies and syndicates to work them as any other commercial undertaking. As certain of the Government arsenals and dockyards were white elephants in the hands of the authorities who simply fattened on them, it was also suggested to hand these over to commercial syndicates who were to build on contract government orders as in England. The Emperor, we noted also, had ordered the Board of Revenue to report on the memorial. This report is now published in the *Peking Gazette*, and we are glad to see by the Imperial Edict of the 13th of August last that the Censor's memorial has been approved of *in toto*, with the additional inducement to the commercial classes of the country, that if ever they need funds to enlarge their works or to prosecute their contracts, they will be allowed to borrow from the Government whatever is needed. The Censor's name is Ch'u Ch'eng-po.

INDIAN CONTROL FOR BRITISH DIPLOMACY IN CHINA.

One of the most curious accompaniments of modern politics and diplomacy is the doctrine of finality that a policy once adopted is never to be reversed, that political movement, which in all nations except Russia is conditioned by opportunism, is ever to be forward and never backward. Men and societies in private life and in business go in largely for tentative methods; they make experiments and trials; finding the result favourable they advance, unfavourable they retire. Nations in these days seem incapable of such procedure: we find a policy once initiated persistently adhered to by its advocates no matter whether the results be patently good or evil. Italian and American finance, French Colonial expansion, British policy in China, all illustrate the point at issue. This weakness is probably the outcome of a desire for consistency, and an unwillingness to admit fallibility in the conduct of public affairs. Rigid consistency is the bane of weak minds and weak men, and is merely a euphuism for the folly and pride which never allow inferior men to confess that they have done or can do wrong.

British statesmen led by PALMERSTON for years devoted their energies to fixing responsibility on the Central Government of China for the vagaries of provincial officials. After two campaigns and the expenditure of no little blood and treasure we gained our point, and from the days of Sir FREDERICK BRUCE to those of Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR we have had fully accredited representatives near the centre of Celestial power and government. It was confidently pleaded that a system which had been found to answer with all other governments would answer with China, but a long experience of thirty-four years has not yet enforced on our publicists that the Chinese are the exception to all political maxims, and that the very means so painfully enforced to secure certain ends have by oriental craft been contorted to ensure the failure of those ends. Forced to admit the hated foreigner to her capital, China defeated him and his measures by instituting the Tsung-li Yamen. This unique institution has been altogether equal to the purpose for which it was created: its members quickly acquired an exact knowledge of the outward forms of diplomatic intercourse. Masters of etiquette and politeness, they adhere to every jot and tittle of the law of embassy. Fat and fatuous they sit in a solid row and deliver their *non possumus* with the smiling urbanity of a lot of joss house idols. They use the one weapon with which Western diplomats cannot fight, the *vis inertiae* of profound and self-satisfied ignorance. Sir HARRY PARKES, the strongest and most energetic Minister England has ever had in Peking, said that to fight the Yamen was a question of physical endurance: "to get a decision from them," he said, "was like trying to draw water from a well with a bottomless bucket." In his case they did not hesitate to have recourse to personal insult. Every Minister has told the same tale, and the history of outrages directed against foreigners in China enforces the lesson that the rules of ordinary diplomatic intercourse are useless in Peking. Why does not Downing Street recognize this obvious fact? We are disposed to think that it would almost be better to have no Minister at Peking at all than to continue to lose prestige by the present conditions.

Let us at once say it is the system and not the men whom we blame. Unless the Minister were given power to move the Fleet, we believe that no man however strong could overcome the evils of the situation. A CLIVE or a HASTINGS in Peking would be reduced to the same impotence as a PARKES or an ALCOCK if they had nothing but their personal force of character to oppose to chicanery and insincerity. They could save their self-respect by resignation, but this would not remedy matters greatly. We should give up the farce of affecting to believe that Great Britain and China are equally autonomous Governments bound by the ties of sovereign states. If China can neither keep her treaty obligations nor preserve order within her own boundaries, the fact should be looked squarely in the face, and our attitude altered accordingly. Our primary business is to compel her to keep her obligations to us, and to help her to maintain order if the lives of our people are in jeopardy through her inability. Magnanimity towards a neighbour in distress has been carried too far: the British Foreign Office has for twenty years had its good nature imposed on by skilful playing on the string of dynastic troubles. The subtle influence of Sir ROBERT HART in the Legation in Peking, and of Sir HALLIDAY MACARTNEY in London, have sadly interfered with the robust common sense of our officials.

But how are we to meet all this? Lord SALISBURY is now in power with an absolute majority of his own party to say nothing of seventy Liberal Unionists. He has now a chance of doing many things that he never had before and which will probably not soon recur. We should suggest that he boldly face the China situation and place the Peking Legation and Consular Service on the Indian establishment. This would within twelve months abolish the shalshally element which now corrodes the whole service. The best administrative genius of the British people is in India; there we have men trained to self-reliance in an Asiatic environment, men who can follow oriental foxiness like a sleuth hound and can prod oriental sloth into prompt action. The gathering of a dozen regiments on the Burman frontier would in all cases cut the Gordian knots of which the Yamenites in Peking are so fond. They would, moreover, find a trained Indian diplomat a man of different kidney to the kidgloved men of the Foreign Office.

Sir HENRY MAINE long ago pointed out that India is now the central pivot of all England's foreign policy. Every succeeding year points to the truth of this statement. The focus of the Eastern question is moving steadily East and now tends to the Far East. Unless a moral revolution comes to China its partition will be the next phase of the great struggle. She is now so rotten that the next rough handling will shake her to pieces. When this inevitable consummation of present tendencies is reached Indian statesmanship and Indian generalship will be necessarily in it. So that both on the ground of future contingency and present need we should like to see Calcutta supersede Downing Street in China. The Celestial Empire is ruled by old women of both sexes (but especially of the male), who are amenable neither to reason nor fairness. Lord SALISBURY will get no permanent satisfaction out of them as long as he adheres to old methods. Chinese diplomacy is like bad plumbing: it lets out sewer gas which poisons our men. The Indian officials are, however, used to Asiatic

effluvia and have a knowledge of the reagents which can both mitigate these evils and abolish their cause. The Consular Service would be the better of a shake up; it abounds in able but fastidious dilettantes who drag their way to a premature pension through the avenues of personal enjoyment. The paramount need of the British situation in China is strength and force. We think this can best be gained through India, but if this be thought too drastic and far reaching a measure, we should like to hint that collusion between the Admiral and Minister would in most cases be effective both to prevent catastrophes and to punish crimes.

SECRET SOCIETIES AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

It is satisfactory to hear that the British Minister at Peking has latterly been coming out in a new role, namely, as a terror to the Tsung-li Yamen. The anti-foreign fossils who compose that body—a Board specially invented to interpose as an impassable barrier between the Foreign Representatives and the sovereign to whom they are accredited—are believed to have despatched a complaint to London of the manner in which Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR has recently been treating them. They are evidently accustomed to inexhaustible patience, unflinching courtesy, and unvarying deference from the Foreign Ministers, and when at length one of the latter, urged perhaps by stress of the situation, by stringent instructions from the Foreign Office, and goaded by reproaches from the Press, ventures to assert his natural superiority and declines to be longer played with and insulted, they, forsooth, would have him recalled! We know not what measure of truth there may be in this report, but it is so much of a piece with Chinese arrogance that there is no difficulty in crediting it. If it be true, it is a healthy sign. It is time the Chinese crest was lowered, though a CROMWELL is wanted for the job. Nothing stands in the way of satisfactory relations with China so much as the overweening vanity and insolence of the mandarins. So long as they are permitted to cozen, dupe, and put off the Representatives of the Treaty Powers with lies, excuses, evasions, and promises, so long will it continue impossible to secure the safety of foreign lives, the fulfilment of treaty stipulations, and the opening up of the Chinese Empire to foreign trade.

Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR has a grand opportunity, and we hope he will make the fullest use of it. Not only has the Government of Lord SALISBURY the largest majority in Parliament at its back of any Government since 1832, but British indignation has been deeply stirred by the infamous and cold blooded massacre of unoffending women and children at Kucheng, and will heartily endorse the most vigorous measures for securing ample satisfaction for this the crowning outrage in a long record of riotous savagery and brutality in China, provoked and suggested by the official class. The great excuse formulated by the Tsung-li Yamen both for the Yangtze Valley atrocities and for the Kucheng massacre is that they were the work of secret societies, committed with the design of embroiling the Imperial Government with foreign Powers. In the former case they paraded the Kolahui, and made much capital out of the foolish conduct of an Englishman in the Customs staff, who in a fit of something like mental aberration was induced to join a conspiracy.

Subsequent events have shown, however, that the Government, weak as it is to oppose a foreign invasion, is strong enough to grapple with any nascent rebellion and much more so with these secret societies, which appear to consist very largely of expectant and retired officials, and who are violently anti-foreign. The inquiry at Kucheng has, too, most convincingly demonstrated the inability of the so-called "Vegetarians" to offer any opposition to the local Government, and the plea of the Viceroy that he was unable to control the society is shown to have been utterly false. Indeed, nothing has been more clearly established than the unwillingness of the Fukien authorities, including the Viceroy, to protect the lives of the missionaries, and nothing can be more certain morally than that the Kucheng massacre was perpetrated, if not at the suggestion then by the connivance of the authorities. We trust that Lord SALISBURY will not rest satisfied with the heads of a few coolies, whose slaughter on a scale of compensation to relatives was no doubt arranged for before permission was given to the Consuls to be present at the inquiry. Nor have we much faith in the deterrent effect of a pecuniary indemnity, even when placed at the figure suggested by the *Saturday Review* of £100,000, and with the stipulation that part of it should come from the pockets of officials. Something more than this is needed: the highest official in the province should be held personally responsible, and, as we can have no faith in Chinese justice, we should insist upon that official being sent to British territory as a prisoner, as Commissioner YEH was sent to Calcutta. We ought also to insist upon the provinces or at least the districts where such outrages take place being opened up permanently to foreign trade and residence, so far at least as is practicable, with a plain intimation that any repetition of such outrages would entail occupation by foreign troops. As we have noted above, Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR has, or ought to have, the ball at his feet. It is for England to dictate the terms: the Chinese Government must submit to her dictation.

PROSPECTS OF THE PIECE GOODS TRADE IN CHINA.

In his report on the trade of Tamsui and Kelung for the year 1894, Mr. L. C. HOPKINS, the Acting Consul, remarks on an increase in the trade in cotton goods, rather a cheerful topic in these days, when on almost every hand we hear of decreases, while pessimists foretell the speedy extinction of the import of British cotton goods in the Far East. At Tamsui the average import of grey and white shirtings taken together during the decade 1884-93 was 90,000 pieces, in 1893 it was 80,000 pieces, and last year 114,000 pieces. These figures, Mr. HOPKINS says, are satisfactory and in some degree surprising, "for the growth has occurred in the face of an unprecedented fall during the year of 9d, in the gold value of the tael, which one would suppose ought to have greatly checked the demand. But more than that, it has taken place along with, and in spite of, a very large increase in the imports of Japanese cloths." Undoubtedly, Mr. HOPKINS continues, the Chinese in the island have prospered and made money for the last few years, probably the population is steadily increasing also, but he scarcely thinks this is a sufficient explanation of the increase, and he suggests that perhaps the presence of considerable

numbers of native regiments under arms, or at any rate in uniforms, had something to do with it. Then again, he says, grey shirtings are used for bags in which tea is brought from the plantations to the market in Twaitutia, and the demand on this account must now be large. The reference to Japanese cloths is as follows:—"Japanese cotton clothes of all kinds have once more made an enormous stride forwards. Their total value in 1893 was £5,202 for 74,520 pieces; last year it was £7,855 for 125,597 pieces, an augmentation in quantity on the single year of 75 per cent." Goods of that quality, however, of a value of 1s. 3d. a piece, can hardly enter into competition with English goods, selling at 6s. a piece and upwards; they must be totally different lines. English goods, however, have been handicapped by the fall in exchange, while Japanese goods have been proportionately favoured. Mr. HOPKINS gives a table showing the comparative retail prices at Tamsui of a few typical foreign articles in the month of March during the years 1893-95, from which it appears that grey shirtings rose from \$2.20 per piece in 1892 to \$3.10 per piece in 1894 and 1895 and white shirtings from \$3.10 to \$4.80, while Japanese cotton crape, which sold at \$1 in 1893 was 86 cents in 1894 and 87 cents in 1895. Thus while the local retail prices of grey and white shirtings had increased 40 and 35 per cent. respectively, that of Japanese crape had decreased 14 per cent.

Turning to Mr. TRATMAN's report on the trade of Chungking we find that the import of cotton and woollen goods, with a few exceptions, shows a heavy decline, as it did also the previous year. "This steady falling off," Mr. TRATMAN says, "is much to be regretted, but it is accounted for in the now familiar way—fall in exchange. That the desire to purchase this class of goods exists is shown by the fact that the import in 1894 of the cheap cotton cloth known as 'Italians' was more than double that of 1893. A large lot of these 'Italians,' sold cheap in Shanghai on underwriters' account, found their way here, and were quickly disposed of at the low rate which the importers were enabled to put on them. The prices of other cottons and woollens were on an average 90 per cent. higher than in 1891. As long as this state of things continues no expansion of this branch of trade can be hoped for." With the last remark we do not agree. In the face of a falling exchange trade has necessarily suffered, but now that exchange bids fair to remain fairly steady, with possibly a slight upward tendency, a considerable improvement in the import trade may, we think, be looked for. Trade, in fact, will adjust itself to any rate of exchange, if the rate remains steady, but it cannot adjust itself to violent fluctuations. The establishment of cotton factories in China may be taken as a sign of the development of the country, and the more the country is developed the greater will be the volume of its foreign trade. The cotton industry was started in India forty years ago and has steadily advanced during that period, but it has been accompanied also with a remarkable advance in the import of cotton goods from England. In 1870 the import amounted to Rs 16,271,216 and in 1893 to Rs 25,658,965. It is true that since 1891 there has been a decline, due to exchange difficulties and also to the commercial depression which has prevailed all over the world, but with a steady exchange and returning prosperity an upward movement in the import of cotton goods in

India may be expected to again set in. So also will it be in China, where the trade in foreign goods will suffer no more from native competition than it has in India.

In its report of the opening of the Changkee mills at Shanghai the other day the *Mercury* said:—"These" (the operatives) "receiving the enhanced wages necessarily given to skilled workers will acquire consequent greater wants that always follow greater wages, and by contact and example the social raising of the people will surely follow in the wake of the new business. This will produce a greater demand for a certain class of luxuries which the country cannot yet supply, and the ultimate result must be the increase of commerce and the solidifying of trade between East and West. As a cotton spinner very tersely explained it, 'Here in China we will spin say from 6 counts to 16, which will be sent into the interior. Our people will earn more money, which will enable them to buy from 16 to 30s spun in India and other places. The operatives there will be enabled to buy counts ranging from 80 to 250s spun in England; and in this way each will do that for which he is best adapted and trade will be consequently benefited.'" Mr. TRATMAN, referring to the manufactures of the Hupeh cotton mill at Wuchang says:—"These goods have had a fair trial throughout these provinces during the past few years, but they are not appreciated to anything like the same extent as similar goods of foreign manufacture. The yarn is short and difficult to work with the primitive appliances in use here. The shirtings have not the same toughness as even the most common kinds of English goods, and they tear very easily. This inferiority of the Hupeh goods is not, I am told, to be in any way attributed to the manufacture, but simply to the fact that the cotton used is much below the standard of Indian cotton." The competition of the native goods is a factor British merchants and manufacturers have to reckon with, and readjustments as regards the class of goods sent out and the terms on which business is transacted may be necessary, but, with a reasonably steady exchange, we see no reason to anticipate anything but an increase in the general volume of trade between England and China, both in imports and exports.

THE NEW PUBLIC OFFICES AND COMPETITIVE DESIGNS.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th August the Hon. E. R. BELLIOS asked if it was the intention of the Government to invite competitive designs from local architects for the proposed new Government Offices, or if the Government proposed that the designs should be prepared and the work carried out by the Public Works Department. The Colonial Secretary replied that the answer to the former part of the question was no, and to the latter part yes. We hope that at the next meeting of Council Mr. BELLIOS and his unofficial colleagues will carry the matter a step further and bring forward a formal resolution that in the opinion of the Council it is desirable that competitive designs should be invited. The public interest must be set before official susceptibilities. We fail to see, however, why official susceptibilities should be in any way hurt in the matter. It is the usual course in England, when a public building has to be erected, to invite competitive designs, and to the adoption of that

system much of the progress and excellence of modern architecture may be ascribed. Not only are competitive designs invited, but it is also a usual thing to exhibit the designs publicly, and in every way to encourage public interest in the matter. The magnificent piles of municipal buildings which adorn most of the large towns of England are the result of the competitive system, and it is reasonable to suppose that if instead of inviting competition the municipalities had in every case confided the work to their own permanent officials the result would have been less satisfactory. It is in the nature of things that it should be so. Competition is not only the soul of business, but is also the incentive to excellence in all departments of life.

It is in contemplation to erect new public offices in Hongkong. The project has not yet been formally approved by the Legislative Council, no vote has been taken for it, and it is not included in the Public Works programme attached to the 1895 Estimates. Practically, however, it has been understood that a site for a new Court-house and Post Office should be reserved on the Reclamation, though it was not understood the work was to be proceeded with at a very early date. On the 15th March, 1894, the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked if the Government would procure and lay upon the table an estimate of what money the Post Office, Treasury, Court-house, Land Office, etc., would probably realise if exposed to auction, and what would be the probable cost of erecting a suitable Post Office and Court-house, including a Land Office, etc., on Government ground on the new Praya Reclamation. The Colonial Secretary made the following reply:—"The Director of Public Works estimates the amount realisable at the present time by the sale of these premises, including Crosby's store, at about \$230,000; and the cost of erecting suitable buildings on Government ground on the Praya Reclamation, exclusive of the value of that ground, which is very valuable, and not including a building to replace Crosby's store, at about \$240,000. The estimate of the amount realisable is, of course, a matter of speculation, and the present time is not opportune for throwing a quantity of Government land on the market." Since that time it appears to have been determined to proceed with the work forthwith, and when Mr. BELLIOS asked his question on the 16th August as to whether local architects were to be invited to submit competitive designs plans had already been prepared in the Public Works department. Why it should have been sought to throw any air of secrecy over the matter it is impossible to say, except that it is in accordance with Hongkong official tradition. It would have been in every respect better had the Colonial Secretary stated that the plans were already prepared and given a general outline of the Government's proposals in the matter.

The Governor, however, took a very wise step in inviting a committee to examine the plans prepared by the Public Works department and report upon them. That report has now been sent in and is said to be adverse to the plans, on the ground, we understand, that the proposed building would be unworthy of the colony. Mr. COOPER seems to have studied utility and economy and to have taken as his model the present Government Offices, which, if not very handsome, are exceedingly comfortable for those who have to work in them, being in summer the coolest place in the colony with the exception of the ice-house. The committee, however, think that the new

offices should not only answer all requirements from a utilitarian point of view, but that they should also constitute an adornment to the colony. In that opinion they will be supported by the general body of ratepayers, and we trust the unofficial members of Council will do their best to give effect to the public wish. It would be no slur on the Director of Public Works to adopt the same plan here as is followed in England and invite competitive designs. Outside Government work that plan is not an innovation in Hongkong. The plans for the City Hall, the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, the Jockey Club Grand Stand, and the new building in course of erection for the Hongkong Club were all decided upon after competition, and the system which has led to such satisfactory results in these cases would produce equally satisfactory results in the case of Government buildings. If the Director of Public Works produced a better design than any of the private architects it would of course be adopted, but to rule out private architects merely because the Director of Public Works thinks the possible adoption of plans prepared outside his office is inconsistent with his official dignity is to subordinate the public interest to private sentiment. We trust, therefore, that the unofficial members will bring forward a resolution in favour of inviting competitive designs and that if the resolution is negatived by the official vote they will bring the matter before the Secretary of State and oppose any vote of funds for the proposed building until their views on this point are complied with.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION AND BARRACK SERVICES.

The unofficial members of Council, in the representation they have made on the subject of the military contribution, present very fairly the just claim of the colony to an exemption of its municipal revenue from the mulct. The claim might perhaps have been urged in more forcible, or at least less obsequious language, but the arguments used ought to carry conviction to the mind of the Secretary of State. The last paragraph of the letter is, however, disappointing and will have been read by the community with some surprise. It runs as follows:—"With regard to the colony's contribution for 'Barrack Services,' we know that the ratepayers will very much resent being called upon to pay for works which, without any reference to them or their representatives, have been already completed or are nearing completion. We may say that we concur in this feeling, and therefore feel ourselves bound to oppose any proposal that the colony should be called upon to bear a share in this expenditure. The case is different with those works which have not yet been begun, and if His Excellency the Governor would bring forward a financial minute regarding them we should be prepared to consider it." The proposal of the Imperial Government to charge the colony with barrack services ought to be resisted *in toto*. It makes no difference whether the rate payers through their representatives are consulted with regard to the plans or not, because such consultation under the circumstances could never be anything more than a sham. If barracks or hospitals are required they must of course be built according to military ideas, and the military ought to be the best judges of what is wanted. It is a matter in which the community has only a remote and very indirect interest and upon which it has

no desire to be consulted, except perhaps as to the selection of sites, and upon that point its representations are not likely to meet with much attention if they happen to run counter to the ideas of the War Office Authorities. The proposal that the colony shall pay a proportion of the cost of barracks and in return shall have a consultative voice in regard to their erection, if carried into effect, will lead to constant bickering and as much unpleasantness as the whole military contribution has hitherto done. If the colony has to pay for the barracks it will be the duty of the unofficial members of Council as guardians of the public purse to show, if they can, either that the proposed barracks are unnecessary or that the accommodation is in excess of the requirements, and as the military will never pay any attention to their representations there will always be an open sore. We trust the unofficial members will reconsider their position on this subject and steadily resist any saddling of the colony with the cost of barrack services. If the military want barracks, let them build them according to their own ideas—and pay for them. The colony wants to have nothing to do with the matter. On paying 17½ per cent. of its revenue as a military contribution it ought to be freed from any further monetary demands for military purposes.

ANOTHER ANTI-FOREIGN OUT- RAGE IN SZECHUEN.

From Szechuen comes intelligence of a fresh attack on a missionary at Wahsien, an important place midway between Ichang and Chungking. There was no provocation. The missionary was out riding on horseback and was first assaulted by two coolies who, armed with stout cudgels, appeared to be waiting for him by the wayside. The horse was startled and ran away with its rider, who was pelted by the mob with mud and stones and sustained several blows and contusions. On his arrival home his colleagues set off at once to the magistrate's yamen to appeal for protection. That personage, however, refused to see them, sent word that he did not want to see them, he was busy, and if they were injured he could not help them. They managed, however, through the good offices of a friendly clerk at the telegraph office, to get an urgent message sent to Chungking. Mr. TRATMAN, the British Consul, at once requested the Taotai to send instructions to the Wanhhsien magistrate to protect the missionaries, and presumably something was done, but the truculent mandarin paid no attention, it would seem, and allowed the most baseless charges to be circulated about the missionaries. This is the sort of thing that still goes on in the province where a Commission of Inquiry has been so lately appointed to investigate the charges made against the mandarins, and especially the ex-Viceroy, of complicity in the recent outrages. So far the most lamentable results have attended the inquiry. The infamous ex-Viceroy has positively been appointed to sit on the Commission, a body pledged to investigate this man's acts. How is it likely to prove anything but a farce when the principal offender occupies a position in the court as judge? The Chinese Government can have no sense of honour or they would never have wished to make such an appointment. As may be expected, the inquiry at Chengtu makes no progress and must end in smoke. The only result achieved so far, according to all accounts, has been to cause an official persecution of such natives as have shown themselves well disposed towards the

missionaries, it being the policy of the mandarins to alienate all the natives from the foreigners. The Chengtu Commission of Inquiry, therefore, is simply being worked as a lever against the missionaries, and it is idle, under such circumstances, to expect either that justice will be done in connection with the recent riots and outrages or that they will be prevented for the future.

THE WEST RIVER.

It is indeed to be feared, as a Bangkok contemporary remarks, that the British Government lost the best opportunity that has offered for the opening of the West River to foreign trade and navigation when the Chefoo Convention was signed and the late Sir THOMAS WADE was foolishly content with the opening of Pakhoi as a treaty port. We fail, however, to see why, because the right was not then acquired, we should not obtain it now. No doubt it would not be exactly what the French Government desire, because they hope to draw all the trade through Tonkin, a hope that will not be realised in consequence of their illiberal commercial policy; but we cannot stand still and wait while French experiments are being tried, nor are we disposed to make the trade of Western China a French preserve. The French adopt in all cases a strictly selfish line, and if they are at any time strong enough to do so, they will keep a market for their exclusive exploitation, not caring a rap whose interests may suffer. The British Government, with a magnanimous disregard of selfish considerations, have on the contrary always shown a disposition to admit other nations to share in the benefits and privileges obtained by the expenditure of British blood and treasure. If the British Minister induces the Chinese Government to open up the West River to British trade and navigation all other treaty Powers will equally benefit by the concession. Great Britain never demands any exclusive trade privilege; unlike France and Russia, she does not seek to secure a monopoly to the detriment of other Powers. Nevertheless, it would appear probable that her Representative at Peking obtains very grudging support from his diplomatic colleagues. If Sir Nicholas O'CONOR had only been well supported, or even unopposed, it is hardly likely that his efforts to secure this very reasonable concession would not long ago have succeeded.

MONEY LENDING IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

The case tried in the Summary Court on Thursday, in which an Indian watchman sued a Chinese interpreter in the Supreme Court for money alleged to have been lent on promissory notes, should direct the attention of the Government to the necessity of interdicting the borrowing and lending of money by members of the service. Mr. LI HONG MI, the defendant, admitted giving the two promissory notes in question, but said they had been paid and destroyed. Further, he said that he had obtained two loans of \$100 each from two Indians for the comrade of a steamer. We have no wish to suggest that there was anything in itself irregular in Mr. LI HONG MEE's action, but we do say that the business of negotiating loans ought not to be followed by members of the Service, and more especially by a court interpreter, whose official services may often be required in connection with the numerous money lending cases that find

their way into court. Regulations are in force prohibiting dealings in shares and property by members of the Service, these regulations affecting more immediately the European officials. It is much more important that the money lending business should be forbidden, as it is likely to lead to more numerous and more serious abuses than ordinary investments. In the course of the trial on Thursday Mr. Justice WISE remarked that there was present in court an Indian gentleman who had been in the Government service only eleven years and who had saved \$13,000; from which it would seem that the Government service must be a very remunerative occupation. Mr. WISE might usefully be asked by the Government to state all he knows about this wealthy member of the Service and how he acquired his wealth.

THE POLICE MAGISTRATE AND THE CHINESE CUSTOMS SERVICE.

In the course of the recent investigation into the extraordinary death of a man supposed to have been a gigman in the employ of the Chinese Customs, the Magistrate, addressing a member of the Customs Service, Mr. CHARLES HALBERG, who was giving evidence, said:—"You understand you are not obliged to answer any questions if you think you are conveying information you would not like to convey." It does not appear that the witness had claimed any protection, and if he had it would have been the Magistrate's duty to have examined the claim to see if it could be allowed under the rules governing state secrets or state documents. The probabilities are that a member of the Chinese Customs Service would not ordinarily be able to claim protection under those rules. But in the case in question the witness had given no indication of any unwillingness to answer the questions put to him. The suggestion that he need not give any information he would rather not give was quite spontaneous on the part of the Magistrate and was very irregular and improper. The witness was sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and was apparently quite prepared to fulfil his oath. If the Chinese Customs Service desires to set up any claim of legal privilege for its officers it may be trusted to advance the claim itself; it is quite unnecessary for a Hongkong Magistrate to go out of his way to put them on their guard.

CHINESE BONFIRES IN THE STREETS.

Some seven years ago the Chinese practice of lighting bonfires in the street at this season attracted attention, owing to the action taken by Governor DES VŒUX in stopping prosecutions by the police in connection therewith. His Excellency, who had probably at that time never seen one of these bonfires or realised the danger they constitute, took the view that the practice was a harmless one and ought not to be interfered with. The bonfires are connected with "joss pidgin," being intended for the burning of paper clothes. Now, no one would wish to interfere unduly with any of the religious rites and ceremonies of the natives, but when their observance brings into existence a public danger it is necessary that reasonable precautions should be taken. Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX, when the subject was ventilated and he inquired into it more closely, satisfied himself that the burning of paper clothes

was not quite the harmless practice he had at first supposed, that the piles of burning paper might be fairly described as bonfires, and that some regulation of the practice was desirable. It was accordingly ordered that suitable vessels should be used in which to burn the paper and that a bucket of water should be kept near while the burning was in progress. These reasonable regulations were cheerfully submitted to by the Chinese, at least we never heard of any complaint being made. It would seem, however, that they have now been allowed to fall into abeyance, for lately we have noticed large piles of paper being burnt in the streets without any precautions whatever being used, the paper not being placed in any vessel but loosely on the ground, and no water being at hand. A gust of wind might easily blow the burning paper against the woodwork of the neighbouring houses and so occasion a fire. The consistent enforcement of the regulations would cause less discontent amongst the Chinese than allowing them to remain in abeyance one year and bringing them into operation the next. Spasmodic action in such matters is always to be deprecated.

REVIEW.

Europe in China. The History of Hongkong from the Beginning to the year 1882. By E. J. EITEL, Ph.D. (Tubing), Inspector of Schools, Hongkong. London: Luzac & Co. Hongkong: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd. 1895.

DR. EITEL is to be congratulated on the excellent history he has produced, and the colony also may be congratulated on at length having its story told with a completeness worthy of the subject. Hitherto the ordinary resident has been dependent for the most part on tradition for what he has known of the earlier days of Hongkong, and if he wished to study any particular period he could only do so by laboriously searching through the files of the contemporary newspapers and seeking access to official despatches, uncollected and unedited. We have had short sketches of the rise and progress of the colony, but hitherto nothing like a complete history. Dr. Eitel has broken new ground and in giving us a full record of the colony (commencing a couple of centuries before its foundation) up to the end of Sir John Pope Hennessy's administration he has rendered a genuine public service.

The first nine chapters are devoted to a history of British relations with China up to 1841, the tenth chapter gives the pre-British history of the island of Hongkong, and with the eleventh chapter we enter on the history of the island as a British colony. The chapters are divided according to the administrations of the different Governors, though, as the author says in his preface, "each Governor is but a transient visitor, each possessed of his own idiosyncracies, and each controlled by an ever shifting series of Secretaries of State for the Colonies," and "behind them all is the ideal but none the less real entity, the genius of British public opinion, which inspires and overrules them all." Few of the Governors have left much personal impress upon the colony. In the early days there was some creative work to be done in connection with the administration, but to the later Governors was left the comparatively simple task of running the machine that their predecessors had built up and adjusted. Some of them have run it quietly, others with much noise and fuss, but the machine has gone on all the same, receiving additions and improvements as circumstances required, though there is little in it that this or that Administrator can claim as his personal invention. The division of chapters adopted by Dr. Eitel is, however, the most convenient that could be selected, notwithstanding that it may seem to give to the personal influence of the respective Governors an importance it does not possess. The growth of Shanghai has been even more remarkable than that of Hongkong and it has been accomplished without

the aid of Governors or of officials with high sounding titles. In his preface our author says:—

"To the popular view the position of Hongkong in the East appears to be that of a remote island, a mere dot in a little known ocean. In reality, however, Hongkong, which, commercially, ranks as the second port of the British Empire, occupies geographically a most fortunate place in relation to the destinies of the Far East. For the last two thousand years the march of civilisation has been directed from the East to the West; Europe has been tutored by Asia. Ennobled by Christianity, civilisation now returns to the East; Europe's destiny is to govern Asia. Marching at the head of civilisation Great Britain has commenced her individual mission in Asia by the occupation of India and Burma, the Straits Settlements and Hongkong. By fifty years' handling of Hongkong's Chinese population Great Britain has shown how readily the Chinese people (apart from mandarins) fall in with a firm European régime, and the rapid conversion of a barren rock into one of the wonders and commercial emporiums of the world has demonstrated what Chinese labour, industry, and commerce can achieve under British rule."

It may well be doubted, however, whether the leaven of European civilization has not worked more powerfully on the life and thought of the Chinese people from Shanghai than from Hongkong. Dr. Eitel himself seems to recognise the limitations to the colony's moral influence, for elsewhere he says:—

"It requires no prophet's gift to see that the politics of the near future centre in the East and that the problems of the Far East will be solved on the Pacific main. Contests will be sure to arise, and in those contests Hongkong will be one of the stations most important for the general strength of the British Empire. Here, even more than in its bearing upon the Asiatic problem, lies the real importance of Hongkong. Such is the position of this colony in relation to the destinies of the Far East. Hongkong will yet have a prominent place in the future history of the British Empire."

The commercial importance of Hongkong is great and undeniable, so also is its moral influence, though an exaggerated idea may be formed of both, but it would be difficult to overrate the importance of the island as a place of arms, a station for the general strength of the British empire. As to the handling of Hongkong's Chinese population and the readiness of the Chinese people to fall in with a firm European régime, the following extract from Dr. Eitel's concluding chapter, "A short summary," is suggestive, though it hardly supports the reference to the subject in the preface:—

"As regards the general attitude of the Chinese community, it seems that, in proportion as the leading Chinese residents learned, towards the end of this epoch, to understand the principles of British communal liberty, there appeared among them a tendency to retire into their own shell, deliberately refusing any identification with the European community. The persistent refusal to adopt European costume or English ways of living, the uniform aversion to participation in local politics coupled with a deep-seated anxiety to keep on good terms with Chinese Mandarins even when it blocked the port to throttle their trade, the steady increase of Chinese joint-stock companies from which foreign investors were jealously excluded, the readiness of secret combination to retaliate against unpopular Government measures by a general strike,—all these symptoms of Chinese clannish exclusivism, natural enough in people whose just liberties have for centuries been invaded by despotic rulers, clearly indicate that on the Chinese side there is, as yet, no desire to see the chasm that still separates Chinese and European life in this colony bridged over."

Still the last paragraph of the book will command assent:—"So far, however, the history of Hongkong has on the whole been the gentle dawning of a bright success. Our hope of the future is but the memory of the past reversed. Hongkong has clearly fulfilled, up to this point, the purpose of its establishment as the guardian of the interests of Europe in China. Notwithstanding all its faults and shortcomings, this British colony has set before the people and

Mandarins of China a praiseworthy example of free trade principles and humane government. *Floreat semper!*"

It will be interesting to give Dr. Eitel's judgment on the administration of the various Governors of the second of the two epochs into which he divides his history of the colony. We have spoken above of the arrangement of the chapters according to the various administrations as tending to give an exaggerated importance to the personality of the Governors; but Dr. Eitel makes no mistake on this point in his concluding chapter, in which he says:—

"As to the individual Governors of this epoch, one feels tempted to say that apparently 'each man begins the world afresh and the last man repeats the blunders of the first.' However, it is remarkable how little really depended upon the character, wisdom, or energy of any of these exalted individuals. Sir J. Bowring, the man of ideas, had rare capabilities and was brimming over with fruitful schemes, but, to use Lord Clarendon's words, 'events which could not be foreseen and which got (or rather all along were) beyond his control' left him stranded powerless. Sir H. Robinson, Fortune's favourite, was apparently the most successful Governor of Hongkong, thanks to an adventurous prosperity of commerce, but if his administration had fallen into his successor's time of financial insolvency, he would have been deprived of all the means of success and left as helpless as his successor. Sir R. MacDonnell, the autocrat, was perhaps the greatest, most energetic, and powerful Governor that ever ruled over this much-ruled colony, but adverse circumstances, bad times, opposition on the part of the colonists, and dissensions with the Colonial Office rulers clipped the wings of his usefulness and success. Sir A. Kennedy, the amiable, is the model of a successful and most popular Governor who achieved local immortality by doing as little as possible whilst making himself personally pleasant to the colony as well to the Downing Street officials. As to Sir J. P. Hennessy, the less said the better. His acts speak powerfully enough. The centre of his world was he himself. But with all the crowd of dark and bright powers that were wrestling within him, he could not help doing some good and the Colony emerged out of the ordeal of his administration practically unscathed. No, what makes or mars the fortunes of Hongkong is not the wisdom or foolishness, the goodness or badness of its Governors. There is an indomitable vitality within and a Supreme Governor above this British colony, and these powers irresistibly push on and control the evolution of Hongkong until its destiny be fulfilled in accordance with a plan which is not of man's making."

Hongkong has never enjoyed the privileges of municipal government. A Parliamentary Committee in 1847 recommended that a share in the administration of the ordinary and local affairs of the island be given, by some system of municipal government, to the British residents, and had that recommendation been acted upon the conditions of life in the colony would probably have been very different from what they are. Perhaps the community is itself in some measure to blame. Sir G. Bonham requested fifteen Justices of his selection to consult on the organisation of a Municipal Committee of Police Commissioners. "If," says Dr. Eitel, "the Justices had been satisfied to begin, in a small way, as a mere Committee of Police Commissioners, looking to future improvement of the revenue to provide the means for extending the scope of their functions, Hongkong would not have remained for fifty years longer without municipal government. As it was, they demanded a full-blown Municipal Council under impossible financial conditions." Again, in Sir John Bowring's time "a passionate public meeting" was held, which complained, amongst other things, of the exclusion of the public from the meetings of the Legislative Council and of the absence of a Municipal Council. In summarising the period from 1854 to 1882 to Dr. Eitel says:—

"Strange to say, the problem of municipal government, raised by the Parliamentary Committee of 1847, and diplomatically handled by Sir G. Bonham, was allowed by the mercantile community to remain dormant through the whole of this epoch. Stranger still, the only Governor who alluded to the subject was autocratic

Sir R. MacDonnell, who suggested to H.M. Government that the colony should be allowed, as far as possible, 'the liberty to expend, on local improvements and works, all the available public income that can be raised from the community for these purposes.' But the strangest thing was that, while the foreign community remained silent on the subject, the Chinese residents came forward of their own accord and requested the organisation of a distinctly Chinese Municipal Council for their own particular benefit, and obtained a Police of their own and a consultative voice as to the management, by the Registrar-General, of Chinese affairs. As to a British Municipal Council, it has to be noted that the history of this period emphatically contradicts one great objection to it, which Sir G. Bonham formulated by asserting that out here in the East there is no leisured class and that men of standing possess neither time nor inclination to devote to the interests of the public. The long continued and varied activity in purely public affairs displayed during this period by individuals like J. Dent, Ph. Byrie, J. Whittall, W. Keswick, and others, and most particularly the large share of attention and time which the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce devoted to questions of general policy, gives the lie to the assertion that the commercial men of this colony are unwilling to sacrifice their time and their strength to the management of communal affairs."

Had the colony possessed a Municipal Council it is inconceivable that the sanitary condition of the place should have remained so long neglected. The present generation is accustomed to look upon Dr. Ayres, the present Colonial Surgeon, as the pioneer in the advocacy of sanitary reform. The subject had, however, frequently attracted attention before that officer came to the colony. The following extract is interesting on this point:—

"When Dr. Harland (the successor of Dr. Menzies) died of fever in the year 1858, it was noticed that he was the fourth Colonial Surgeon who had fallen a victim to the climate. His successor, Dr. Chaldecott, reported, as a novel appearance in the colony, the outbreak of true Asiatic cholera and hydrophobia. Whilst insisting upon the urgent need of improving the sanitary condition of the colony, repeatedly pointed out by his predecessors, Dr. Chaldecott stated that this first appearance of Asiatic cholera 'was, if not entirely owing to, at least fearfully aggravated and extended by, the neglect of proper drainage and cleanliness, the results of which must act with double force in a community so crowded together as that of Victoria, and in a climate so favourable to the decomposition of animal and vegetable products.'"

On the subject of residence at the Peak there are various references in Dr. Eitel's book, and it is amusing now, when the Peak and Mount Gough are covered with villas, to notice how chary the community at first was of trying residence on the heights. Peak sanatoriums were first recommended in 1848 by the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Morrison. Years elapsed before the idea was adopted, and this is what Dr. Eitel has to say of it:—"The long talked-of scheme of a medical sanatorium, to be established on Victoria Peak, was at last carried out, but did not receive a fair trial. At the recommendation of the Principal Medical Officer of the station, the Military Authorities opened, in spring 1862, a well-built sanatorium on the plateau below the flag-staff and filled it with patients (of an unsuitable class). But, before the close of the year, the military doctors condemned the scheme as a manifest failure, on the ground that nearly every case sent up had been attacked with diarrhoea of an intractable nature and that all medical cases had been aggravated rather than improved. The fate which had pursued the island as a whole, and the Kowloon Peninsula in particular, asserted its power also as to the first settlements on the Peak: the first occupation produced disease, and patience and discretion were required to overcome the difficulty. It took years before Peak residence, strongly advocated by Mr. Granville Sharp, who took a lease of the deserted sanatorium, rose into favour." There appears to be a mistake in the year mentioned and in the ultimate disposal of the land, for further on we read:—"Sir H. Robinson, however, had more faith in the

Peak. He had a path cut (December, 1859) which led to the top of Victoria Peak and, after recovering from the Military Authorities the site of their abandoned sanatorium, arrangements were made, in March 1860, for the erection on that site of a bungalow for the use of the Governor. If the military sanatorium was not opened until 1862 Sir Hercules Robinson could not have recovered from the military authorities the site of their abandoned sanatorium in 1860. However that may be, it was not until 1876 that residence on the Peak began to be popular and not until several years later that any large number of houses were erected.

We might make columns of interesting extracts from Dr. Eitel's History. The whole book, indeed, from beginning to end, is interesting and ought to be read by every one who wishes to take an intelligent view of the history and progress of the colony. The earlier part is of a higher order of excellence than the latter part; it deals with more weighty events, which are treated in a true historical manner. Approaching more nearly to our own times we find some want of due perspective and "the endeavour of the writer" (we quote from the preface) "to combine with the aims of the historian, writing from the point of view of universal history, the duties of the chronicler of events such as are of special interest to European residents in the East," has been carried out with such thoroughness that Dr. Eitel's pages are encumbered with mention of very trivial occurrences, and the obituary lists include names of no historical or political importance. The book, as regards these portions, bears evidence of having been finished in a hurry and sent to press with insufficient revision. For instance, on page 519 "the completion of the Cosmopolitan Docks" in 1875 is mentioned, and on page 565 the "starting of opposition Docks at Shamshupo by the Cosmopolitan Dock Company (February 3rd, 1880)" is spoken of. The "starting of opposition docks" was simply the turning of an existing concern into a public company. We have noticed very few mistakes, however, and those not of great importance. The want of revision to which we have referred is noticeable rather in the arrangement of the matter than in actual errors. The sequence of events is not always preserved and when the reader thinks he is being carried forward he unexpectedly finds himself engaged on a period a year or two anterior to that which he has just been reading of. The defects are trifling, however. Taking the book as a whole it is an excellent one and Dr. Eitel deserves the thanks of the colony for having written it.

THE JAPANESE IN FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT WITH
THE JAPANESE ARMY.]

Taipeifu, Formosa, 2nd September.

That the reader may be able to follow the Japanese in their occupation of the island, I will take up the trend of events since my last letter, which found the Japanese in possession of Takoham and an occasional skirmish with the Chinese taking place at Teckcham (Hsin Chu). In my last letter it may be noted I criticised the Japanese severely for their extreme leniency in dealing with the rebels, but they are now pursuing more drastic methods, for the suicidal folly of clemency had only too forcibly been demonstrated.

The troops have slowly but steadily been advancing south during the last month. We find them leaving Teckcham and on August 8th capturing Gutow (Otowshua) and on the 9th proceeding further south and attacking and capturing the commanding position and fort at Senpitsu hill, the Chinese fleeing before them as they advanced. As the Chinese learned of the approach of the Japanese, in many of the towns consternation prevailed. On the 10th at Mahle, a town but a few miles away from the conquering Japanese, the Chinese soldiers were gathered to the number of several thousands and seemed to be mostly Hakkas, although the leaders spoke the Mandarin dialect, and were from Hunan, Canton, and other districts on the mainland, and all were former officials under the old regime. One detachment of "Black Flags" had arrived from the south, evidently to cheer the soldiers up and to publish the mighty

words of the mighty Liu, the chief of the Southern Republic. There seemed to be great dissatisfaction among the soldiers, who were anything but anxious for the fray, and the village elders stated that they did not want to fight, but were forced to by the Chinese soldiers, who would kill them if they refused. Several Hakkas had been beheaded because they showed signs of weakness and did not want to join the movement against the Japanese.

At Olan, on the night of the 10th, eighty Chinese soldiers entered the town with great bravado to inspect the houses to see that no Japanese soldiers were concealed. A vigorous search was instituted, in the closets, under the beds, and in the attics; in fact every place where they were not likely to be found. It might be mentioned that no search was made outside of the city. The next forenoon three Japanese arrived and entered the city, the villagers informing them that they did not want to fight and asking them to bring a body of soldiers as soon as possible, as they were afraid the Chinese soldiers would return. The Chinese soldiers a few miles away were burning the farms of the peaceful natives and were much feared by the neighbourhood. The next morning the Japanese army advanced, passed through Olan (Cora), and were fired upon by the Chinese from the surrounding hills. Two men-of-war answered by bombarding from the sea and the Japanese artillery was brought into position and after a few shells the Chinese were scampering over the hills with a great deal of haste and no little confusion, but not until twenty or thirty had been killed, with one Japanese killed and seven wounded. The Japanese then going a bit inland took possession of Mahli (Bioretsu) the next morning, the 15th. The division was then divided into two columns, one advancing to Changwha (Shoka) and the other to Taiton or, as it is sometimes marked on the maps, Taiwanfoo, but there is no village there, a few yamens near by only marking the spot where once it was intended to erect and establish a city to be the capital of Formosa.

On the 28th a combined attack was made on the forts outside the big inland city of Changwha (Shoka), the third city of importance on the island, one detachment taking the roadway direct to the city and building a pontoon bridge across the river which flowed between them and the city and forts; the main army going to the eastward to attack the fort erected on a large hill to the east of the city. At five in the morning the artillery was brought into position and the attack commenced. For nearly two hours the Chinese held their ground and then retreated with the greatest of haste, so that the fort and city were both in possession of the Japanese by seven o'clock, and the big city with the fort, with modern guns, which has been always considered the most warlike of any on the island, and which residents had long prophesied that the Japanese would have a difficult time with when they tackled Changwha, fell as easy a capture as any army could wish. The Chinese made such a hurried retreat that boxes, bundles, clothes, everything was left behind. They evidently had not anticipated that defeat was possible, for the houses were found all in order. Fires were blazing with the food still cooking in preparation for the morning meal. Costly robes and valuables of many kinds were there undisturbed, the whole scene betraying a retreat unexpected and one carried into execution at once. In the fort were four 12 centimetre Krupp modern breachloading guns, and 410 other guns of different kinds were captured in and about the city, besides a great many small arms, flags, uniforms, ammunition, etc. The Chinese loss was about six hundred and the Japanese nine. A detachment of Japanese followed south for twelve miles to Tolokumun (Tolokum) and another party took possession of Lokang (Rokuko), the port for Changwha.

The Imperial Prince Yoshihisa is in command of the division. Troops and coolies in great numbers have been arriving almost daily at Kelung, the Japanese journals stating that there are forty-six thousand in all, which, however, I think is considerably exaggerated; at all events the country is filled with them. One cannot look in any direction without seeing soldiers in crowds. Since the Government of

Formosa has been changed from civil to military control there has been a little ill-feeling created, caused by the forced obedience required by military rule, which in some cases seems to be exerted with rather a domineering spirit, and the ignorant Chinese, who are incapable of comprehending the workings of a military organization, take the enforced strictness as a personal offence created only to allow of an opportunity for the Japanese to tyrannize and take advantage of their position.

In some cases there has been just cause for offence and considerable ill-feeling has been created even among the foreigners, for many of the soldiers and the majority of the coolies seem to swell with conscious superiority and at every opportunity endeavour in little ways to make it disagreeable and tyrannize over the Chinese. It has been surprising to me that there have not been many cases of crime and disorder, considering the great number of soldiers and coolies, but to the credit of the men and their officers nothing has occurred worthy of a serious complaint, but it is the little irritating incidents that are of every day occurrence that are driving the Chinese to the mainland in hundreds. The Japanese should exert a greater police supervision, and orders should be laid down with a strict punishment for disobedience.

Guards are distributed all over the city, both inside the wall and out, and Chinese passing these sentries were for some time forced to take off their hats as they passed. I think orders were only given for this rule to be observed at the city gates, and as the Japanese, whether he be of high or low rank, must salute the guard in the same way, there is no criticism to be made if they wished to enforce the acknowledgement, but if such was the case official proclamations should have been published about the city, that the Chinese might not be subjected to the humiliating insolence of a common soldier, who in many instances knocked their hats off with his bayonet. This performance had not only taken place at the city gateways but on the public highway. It even reached to such an extent that Chinese passing the gates in jinrickshas were forced to step out and walk past the guard with uncovered head, to again get into the jinricksha, and proceed. In one case a foreigner was ordered to step out of his jinricksha while passing the guard. Of course the foreigner did not comply and as a result of the insult a written complaint was entered and the Japanese officials at once took steps to see that the offence was not repeated, as well as to repeal the order that the Chinese should uncover, which was becoming very obnoxious. The insolence of the coolies is greatly in need of control. The roadway seems to be their undisputed possession and foreigners are always forced to step on one side when passing them. They enter the houses at their pleasure and are a terror to all Chinese, who possess as one of their most prominent characteristics the desire of seclusion and privacy of the home.

As to the reports of the great number of Japanese suffering with sickness, the following table will show to what extent the climate is affecting the troops:—

Hospital Location.	Wounded.	Cholera.	Typhus.	Dysentery.	Beriberi.
Kelung	22	3	0	28	443
Taipeifu	7	10	0	34	203
Teckcham (Hsinchu)	4	28	0	24	23
Total	33	41	9	103	669

Hospital Location.	Malaria.	Enteritis.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Average for one day during last week of deaths.
Kelung	106	189	182	979	9
Taipeifu	16	188	237	715	9
Teckcham (Hsinchu)	6	160	46	291	6
Total	128	537	465	1,985	18

New applications for admittance are coming into the hospitals at the rate of about one hundred a day, and about that number are being sent from Kelung to Japan on the transports. The great majority of cases are among the coolies.

The cause of so much sickness is only too evident to the foreigner, who watches the Japanese coolies pass by with hair cropped close and no hat or even cloth to protect them from the fearful Formosa sun. Even the Chinese, who are as little affected by the elements as anyone, are rarely seen out in the sun unless they are wearing a big hat or have a cloth wrapped about their heads, and the few exceptions have their ones coiled about their heads, which affords considerable protection. Water of any kind and from any place is readily drunk, and even when under the supervision of some petty officers I have seen the water heated, but before it reached a boiling point was taken off to be poured down the throats of the thirsty men with the germs still alive and feeling healthier than ever. The men are all provided with hats and strict orders have been given regarding the eating of fruit and the drinking of unboiled water, but the ignorant coolies, who seem unable to comprehend that it is done for their own benefit, obey only while under the watchful eye of the officers. No one need be frightened over the unhealthiness of Formosa. The very little sickness to be found among the foreigners is evidence that with the precautions necessary in almost any country with the same temperature, one can be as well and live quite as long in Formosa as anywhere else.

The savages in the vicinity of Tansikak have been a little active, eighteen Chinese having been killed in six days. The villagers have been subject to raids and riots and for some time were forced to make an agreement with a band of robbers by paying a sum of money every month, the robbers guaranteeing the people safety from their own raids as well as from attacks by outside gangs.

Several officials are scattered through the country recruiting Chinese to go north to oppose the Japanese, but the newly organized forces spend most of their time plundering the more peacefully inclined Chinese under the pretext that they are in league with the Japanese.

On the sixth a man was burned alive for robbing at Toasia. Previous to that two men were decapitated by the Hakkas, and apparently for no other cause than that they were Cantonese.

A Chinese official, who was formerly a Bokumkiok (Protector of the Savages), was arrested at Tansikak and forced to pay two hundred dollars ransom money. He then went to Changwha and reported the case to the magistrate, who in consideration of the robbery appointed him tax-collector for several villages, including the one in which he had been forced to "shell out." He returned to this place accompanied by a lot of soldiers, who were informed on their arrival that the mandarins had had their day and that no one paid any taxes. The soldiers then returned and the tax-collector departed for other climes.

Three anti-Japanese societies have been organized by wealthy Chinese of this district, and have been very busy distributing most blood-thirsty literature. General Liu, the Black Flag Chief, is also sending proclamations to all Hakka villages, agitating and imploring them to stand together, and stamp out the very memory of the Japanese from the island.

The village elders have notified the inhabitants that owing to the great number of dangerous robbers about, they are to shoot any person found prowling about the premises. Six robbers had their heads cut off in one village inside of a few hours.

After submitting to the extortion of a considerable sum, the natives of Tansikak decided to dispense with the services of the robber band whom they had engaged at the rate of ten dollars a month each, man to protect them against robbers, and a plan was laid to get rid of them. When the robbers came to collect their pay, the inhabitants were to spread the alarm and one armed man from every house was to help to surround the men, and they were to be burned alive. Any house in which the occupants refused to send a representative was to be pulled down and destroyed by the villagers.

The Chinese interested in the gold washing have petitioned the Japanese Government to appoint a tax-collector for the gold district, that they may be allowed to go on with the work without being interfered with by the host of robbers who do no work, but live off the gold washed by the labourers. Over a million

dollars worth of gold was obtained by the "washings" near Kelung last year, and under a system of taxing very disadvantageous to the labourer. With a fair system of taxation it is possible that the same locality could be made to yield double that amount.

JAS. W. DAVIDSON.

GREAT STORM IN FORMOSA.

THE GREATEST FLOODS FOR YEARS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
TAIPEH, 5th September, 1.40 p.m.

The greatest storm experienced for years has passed over Formosa and floods are raging. Much damage has been done.

[On the 4th inst. the Hongkong Observatory notified that the typhoon which had previously been advised was then in Formosa moving N.W.]

THE COLONIST'S FAREWELL.

Farewell, Hongkong! At length I'm free
To tend this wreck of brain and sinew.
Farewell, you teacup colony,
And petty storms that rage within you!
Farewell, Sir W—m! Happy man!
So Virgil's your consoler, is he?
Plagues, lawyers, inkpots—*haec forsitan
Juvabit olim meminisse!*
Farewell, officials young and old—
The general this and acting t'other,
Who vote exactly as you're told
And save your "chief" a lot of bother!
Farewell, J—n J—h! Wrong again!
You chose to play for nought—or crosses:
Succeed or fail, you can't complain
Of your pecuniary losses.
Farewell, the Praya! Future years
May hail the wondrous reclamations
Confined, just now, to blocking piers
With mud, and worse abominations.
Farewell, the Peak! What bliss to rise
By such a very trifling payment
To such an earthly paradise—
Of fogs, typhoons, and mouldy raiment!
Farewell, dear isle! 'Twixt you and me
All bonds to-day are snapped asunder.
Forsan—but could you ever be
A pleasing memory? I wonder.

S. S. *Empress of India*,
4th September, 1895.

THE "BELGIC" ASHORE.

Telegraphic intelligence has been received that the O. and O. steamer *Belgic* has gone ashore on Cape King, the eastern point of Tokyo Bay. The *Belgic* left San Francisco on the 24th ult. and was due at Yokohama about Monday. No particulars, beyond the bare fact of the vessel's being ashore, have come to hand. There is a lighthouse at Cape King, but it is not in telegraphic communication with Yokohama.

SUPREME COURT.

3rd September.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN AND THE STRAITS, LIMITED v. CHEUNG KAI ESTATE.

The hearing was resumed in this case. Plaintiffs sought to recover \$100,000 from Cheung Yau To and Cheung Yau Pun, executors, and Lau Shi, executrix of the will of Cheung Kai, deceased. The amount was alleged to be due under a bond of suretyship.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. W. V. Drummond and Mr. D. McNeill represented the defendants.

Mr. S. L. Darby, accountant at the plaintiff Bank, was called and Mr. Drummond proceeded with his cross-examination.

Mr. Drummond—When you lent the money on these bills did you know the partners in the Chinese banks?

Witness—The money was not lent by me; the transaction was put through by the manager, Mr. Inchbald, and I paid the money under his instructions. I should authorise the compradore to pay the money to the particular bank.

Mr. Drummond—Had you any conversation with the manager with reference to making these advances or any of them?

Witness—I cannot remember that I ever had any special conversation on the subject. I looked to the compradore, who was the payee, to make any loss good.

Mr. Drummond—At the interview on March 27th between yourself and Cheung Kung Sing did he ask you whether you had a margin at that time on Kan Sing Toi's account?

Witness—I do not remember.

Mr. Drummond—At that time did you know that Kan Sing Toi was a partner in any of these banks?

Witness—I knew he was a partner in the Kwong Fuk Bank. I think he told me at the interview.

Mr. Drummond—Did the compradore do his best to get Kan Sing Toi to agree to something?

Witness—The compradore appeared generally to do his best to help our bank at all times.

Mr. Drummond—Had you made any attempt to calculate on that day the value of Kan Sing Toi's securities in the Bank's hands?

Witness—It was probable that I knew then approximately the state of Kan Sing Toi's account.

Mr. Drummond—Do you know what balance there was in his favour?

Witness—The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank compradore had bolted on that day and it was impossible to value Kan Sing Toi's securities then.

Mr. Drummond—Before the absconding of Lo Hok Pang, the compradore of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank,—if you had been asked two days before as to the general position of Kan Sing Toi's account what sum would you have put as the probable surplus value?

Witness—Of course that would depend how the realisation was to be made.

Mr. Drummond—I am asking you about the value on those dates before the crash occurred.

Witness—I do not think there would have been any margin.

Mr. Drummond—Will you produce the monthly report of Kan Sing Toi's account up to 31st January, 1892, and give me the total value of the securities and the total debit?

Witness—The total amount standing to his debit was \$604,437.85, and the value of the securities as shown by the account was \$628,877; in addition we had a thousand shares of the nominal value of \$8,500 in a mining company. The amount of his overdraft on the 29th February was \$599,344.22, and on the credit side was \$660,396, and collaterals \$7,250; the surplus margin was \$68,301.78.

Mr. Drummond—Were there not a number of new transactions during February?

Witness—There was fresh business, but not to any very great extent. No advances were made after March 31st. We got no fresh securities from Kan Sing Toi after that date. We furnished him with copies of the account at the end of every quarter. Two or three days after the letter of May 31st was written I remember Cheung Kung Sing coming to me and asking whether he had rendered himself liable for the whole of Kan Sing Toi's account. I then had a conversation with Mr. Inchbald on the subject and the letter of the 3rd June was written.

Re-examined by Mr. Francis—The usual form in paying out the money on bills is for me to fill up a debit slip which would contain an order to pay the money, and probably the name of the person to whom the money was to be paid would be mentioned, but not necessarily.

Mr. Chantry Inchbald, manager of the Bank of China, Japan, and the Straits, Limited, in Hongkong said he had been in charge of the Bank since February, 1892, and remembered the crash on March 27th, 1892. He personally arranged with Cheung Kung Sing for the Chinese banks who drew the bills. Witness then detailed the transactions and spoke of the instructions he gave in reference to them.

Cross-examined by Mr. Drummond—This suit

is in the name of the old Bank before the liquidation. That Bank was in the hands of the liquidator and is now re-constructed under a new name.

His Lordship—Is this material?

Mr. Drummond—I am not quite sure that the plaintiffs in this suit—

His Lordship—You admit that the Bank advanced the money.

Mr. Drummond—We admit they advanced certain money, but that there is a debt due to the Bank we deny.

Witness, in answer to further questions, said—The Bank was in the hands of the liquidator for three months, and it is now called the Bank of China and Japan, Limited.

Mr. Drummond—The plaintiff Bank in this suit practically ceased in December, 1894, and has never been in existence since?

Witness—Yes; the Bank is still in liquidation. When the money was advanced I did not know the partners in the Chinese Banks. I arrived in Hongkong on 29th January, 1892, and probably knew Kian Sing Toi before I took charge of the Bank. I did not know he was a partner in any one of the Banks. I first heard of the disappearance of Lo Hok Pang on Sunday, 27th March.

Mr. Drummond raised the question whether the action could be brought by the Bank in its present name, and his Lordship adjourned the case to give an opportunity to plaintiffs' counsel to consider whether an amendment of the pleadings should be applied for.

The case was thereupon adjourned.

4th September.

In this case counsel on both sides conferred with his Lordship in chambers and after hearing the arguments respecting the point raised on Tuesday with reference to the name of the Bank his Lordship adjourned the case *sine die* in order that the pleadings might be amended.

W. G. HUMPHREYS AND CO. V. LEE PANG CHO.

The plaintiffs brought two actions against the defendant, one to recover \$3,389.73, and the other to recover \$4,684.77. A writ of foreign attachment had been made returnable for yesterday, and in both suits judgment was given for the plaintiffs with costs. Mr. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grits) appeared for the plaintiffs.

5th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

AJAN SINGH V. LI HONG MI.

The plaintiff brought two actions against the defendant to recover altogether \$1,544 due on promissory notes.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Hastings, of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Dennys represented the defendant.

Mr. Francis said the case was a little peculiar. The actions were not actually brought on lost promissory notes, but the notes were not producible, and it was not known where they were. The plaintiff was a watchman at Quarry Bay and the defendant was an interpreter at the Supreme Court. The claims were on two promissory notes; one for \$1,000 at interest at three per cent. per month, but the interest was abandoned in order to bring the case within the jurisdiction of the Court; the other note was for \$400, and the plaintiff claimed balance of interest at three per cent. per month, making a total of \$544. The promissory notes were given under the following circumstances. In February, 1892, an action was commenced in this court by the plaintiff against the defendant to recover \$2,100. A settlement of the case was effected out of court through the intervention of Mr. Hastings, plaintiff's solicitor. The plaintiff received \$1,100 out of court, and the defendant gave plaintiff a promissory note for \$1,000, with interest at three per cent. per month. In consideration of the settlement defendant gave plaintiff another promissory note for \$400, with interest at three per cent. per month. The notes were drawn up by Mr. Hastings and witnessed by him.

The plaintiff was a long way from the city and he entrusted the notes to Priam Singh, a gunner in the Asiatic Artillery, and asked him to collect the interest from the defendant. When recently the plaintiff applied to Priam Singh for the notes he said he had lost them, and it was under these circumstances that the plaintiff came into court to sue upon the notes. If the defence was that the money had been paid the plaintiff knew nothing about it, and Priam Singh had no authority whatever to make a settlement. A formal application was made to the defendant for payment and his answer was simply a denial that he owed the money, and Priam Singh had denied that the notes were handed to him.

Mr. Hastings, solicitor, proved drawing up the promissory notes and handing them to plaintiff in settlement of the suit in February, 1892.

Priam Singh, who appeared on a subpoena, said the notes were not in his possession.

Ajan Singh, the plaintiff, said he was an ex-policeman and watchman at the Taikoo Sugar Works. Up to a year ago he had the promissory notes in his possession. He used to give them to Priam Singh to collect the interest from the defendant. The last time he gave them to him was about a year ago. When witness was told that the notes were lost Priam Singh said "Don't make a noise; I'll give you another one. If the defendant hears of it he will make a noise." Witness had received interest on each of the notes for two years, but no part of the principal. He had not given authority to Priam Singh to receive the principal, and he had not sold or transferred the notes to Priam Singh or to anyone else.

Cross-examined by Mr. Dennys—Priam Singh told me some time ago in the afternoon that he had lost the notes. It was about five months ago when we were near the McGregor Barracks, and Priam Singh said "Keep quiet, and I'll get you another." Witness believed what Priam Singh told him. The interest he was getting was \$42 a month up to two years ago. He thought it was thirteen or fourteen months ago since he last received any interest. He had lent money before but kept no accounts.

Mr. Dennys—Where did you get this \$2,100 from?

Witness—I served in Hongkong 22 years.

Mr. Dennys—You saved all that out of your pay as a policeman?

Witness—It was all my savings.

Mr. Dennys—Was that all you had at the time?

Witness—I had more than that.

Mr. Dennys—How much more?

Witness—\$1,500.

His Lordship—There is a gentleman—an Indian—in Court now, who has been in the Government Service only eleven years and he has saved \$13,000.

Mr. Dennys—During the last thirteen or fourteen months have you ever applied to Mr. Li Hong Mi for payment of this money?

Witness—Mr. Li Hong Mi wrote to me two or three months ago asking me to come up and see him as Priam Singh was giving him trouble about the interest.

Mr. Dennys—Have you applied to Mr. Li Hong Mi during the last thirteen or fourteen months?

Witness—I did not ask him as I had not got the papers.

Mr. Dennys—Did not the \$2,100 which you originally sued for belong to Priam Singh?

Witness—Priam Singh took the money from me; \$1,800 belonged to Priam Singh, and \$300 to Akbar Singh.

Mr. Dennys—So the money wasn't yours at all?

Witness—I paid the money to Priam Singh.

Mr. Dennys—It was really yours money then?

Witness—It was all mine.

Mr. Dennys—If you believed Priam Singh when he told you he had lost the notes why, in last August, did you get your lawyer to write to Priam Singh for the return of the notes?

Witness—I believed when Li Hong Mi wrote to me that Priam Singh had the notes; I changed my mind, and I do not believe they are lost.

Priam Singh, was re-called, and said he was a gunner in the Asiatic Artillery. He had known

Ajan Singh about ten years. Witness had never asked Li Hong Mi for any money, and had never got any money from him. He had never asked Li Hong Mi's friends for any money. He had never had any money transaction with Ajan Singh, and had never received any money from him.

Mr. Francis—Think again. Have you lost your memory or is your head going wrong?

Witness—No; my head is not going wrong.

Mr. Francis—Have you lent any money to anybody?

Witness—No.

In answer to further questions witness said he knew nothing about the suit in 1892, and as far as he knew there was no such suit. Ajan Singh had not handed him the two promissory notes to collect the interest; it is not true that he told Ajan Singh he had lost the notes.

His Lordship—What is your position now, Mr. Francis? Of course I do not want to interfere, but have you any more witnesses like this one?

Mr. Francis—No, my lord, I have no other witness, but I ask leave to put Mr. Hastings in the box again as Priam Singh has sworn that he has not had the notes.

His Lordship—This man takes a different line altogether. On the face of it it looks as if he had something to do with it. His evidence is rather against your case.

Mr. Francis—It is against us only on the production of the promissory notes.

His Lordship pointed out that Mr. Francis's position was a difficult one, and Mr. Francis admitted it was; he anticipated such a position. But there was distinct evidence that the promissory notes for these amounts were given by Li Hong Mi in favour of the plaintiff in 1892, and the plaintiff was not in a position to produce the notes. He says he has not got them and that they are lost.

His Lordship—He was trying to prove them.

Mr. Francis—He is.

His Lordship—And he has failed. I am just as much entitled to believe Priam Singh as the plaintiff himself.

Mr. Francis—I was obliged to call him, my lord. I ask your lordship to call upon the defendant to produce the notes. I will put the defendant into the box.

Mr. Dennys—I cannot object to the defendant being called. If Mr. Francis likes to call him as a witness he can.

Mr. Francis—I ask your Lordship's leave to put in secondary evidence as to the existence of the notes.

His Lordship—I do not think you are entitled.

Mr. Francis—Then I will call Li Hong Mi. Your Lordship is of course entitled *prima facie* to believe the last witness as much as Ajan Singh. At the same time when your Lordship finds that the last witness positively denied that he had the promissory notes, while there were such notes, I ask your Lordship to say that the last witness's evidence is not reliable, and to believe that, as between these two men, Priam Singh is in a position to produce the two documents. The plaintiff has a *prima facie* case established that these notes were in existence, and for some reason of his own Priam Singh has denied that he had ever had them.

Li Hong Mi said—I admit giving the two promissory notes. I have paid the money in full and destroyed the notes. I paid the money to Ajan Singh in April, 1893. He called at my house and I paid him there. I cannot say whether anyone saw those notes in my possession. I tore them up in the presence of the plaintiff. I lately applied to Ajan Singh for a loan of \$1,000 for the ex-compradore of the steamship *Bygdo*. I did not get that loan. Since I paid off the two notes I do not think I have had any other transactions with him. The following letter dated April 9th, 1895, I sent to plaintiff—"Please call and see me about the two promissory notes at any time convenient to you, and oblige." Those two notes referred to two loans of \$100 each which I obtained from two Indians for the compradore of the *Bygdo*. I wrote to Ajan Singh because he had something to do with the transaction. I discharged one of the notes yesterday and the other is in Ajan Singh's possession.

Mr. Francis—I do not see that I can go further, my Lord. The evidence is against me

in the absence of the notes and the statement by the defendant that he paid the money and destroyed them. There is absolutely nothing more to be said.

His Lordship—Judgment for the defendant.

6th September.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

In re MI CHEUNG, KWAN CHEUNG, AND HUNG CHEUNG FIRMS.

The Fung Hing Cheung firm, creditors, applied for a receiving order against the above firms. Mr. Reece appeared for the petitioning creditors, and Mr. Hastings represented an execution creditor.

Mr. Reece said the petitioning creditors carried on business at 68, Praya West, and they presented a petition against Li Pang Cho, alias Li Min, alias Hung Fat, and Wan Kam, alias Wan Ching Chuen, who carried on business as three different firms—one, the Mi Cheung at 186, Queen's Road Central, the second, the Kwan Cheung, at 280, Queen's Road Central, and the third, the Hung Cheung at 104, Praya Central, as foreign goods dealers. The petition was presented on the 22nd August, and the amount of the debt due was \$1,530.95, principal and interest on two promissory notes. The act of bankruptcy alleged was that the two partners in the three firms left the colony for Canton in August with intent to avoid or delay their creditors. The petition was served on both these men out of the jurisdiction of the Court, and they said they would not appear. Affidavits had been filed setting forth the facts. The assets consisted of the stock-in-trade of the three shops, and amounted to about \$3,000; the book debts amounted to \$17,000, of which it was estimated that \$7,000 was recoverable.

Mr. Hastings, in answer to his Lordship, said he appeared for one of the execution creditors against the Kwan Cheung firm, and his clients said the firms were of different partnerships, and that they could not be made bankrupts together. The various debts due by the firms must be treated separately, and the assets of the Kwan Cheung firm must be paid to the firm's creditors before the other firms' creditors were paid. The petitioning creditor is a creditor of the Mi Cheung firm and he sought to make both these people bankrupt.

Mr. Reece—I am asking for a receiving order, and am not asking for an adjudication. I think it is the practice to make an adjudication against a firm and a receiving order against the partners. The partners in these three firms are Li Pang Cho and Wan Kam. Of course I do not admit that my friend has a *locus standi* here. An execution creditor has no *locus standi* on the hearing of a petition for a receiving order.

His Lordship—How do you make that out?

Mr. Reece—Well, my lord, I submit that the only parties to the petition are the petitioning creditor and the debtor; they are in the position of plaintiff and defendant; it is simply a matter between the petitioning creditor and the debtor.

Mr. Hastings said that according to the Bankruptcy Ordinance it shall be decided, in case of dispute, who are the partners. The dispute here was as to the partners in the Kwan Cheung firm. He alleged there were other partners besides these two men.

His Lordship—The only question is whether such dispute shall be settled on an application for a receiving order.

Mr. Hastings—I submit you will not make a receiving order against the Kwan Cheung firm unless an act of bankruptcy is proved against each partner. I am prepared to prove there are five or six partners.

Mr. Reece—The petition is heard under section 7 of the Ordinance, and the late Acting Chief Justice decided on a similar application the other day that the execution creditor had no *locus standi*.

His Lordship—How should you, Mr. Hastings, be prejudiced by a receiving order?

Mr. Hastings—I am prejudiced in this way. I have possession of the goods of the Kwan Cheung firm under a writ of execution.

His Lordship—If there is an adjudication against these persons your execution will be effected as regards your clients' interests.

Mr. Hastings—Quite so, my lord; I seek that their interests shall not be affected. The Official Receiver would seize the whole of the property. I am particularly interested in this matter, because my clients got an order of the Court to stop these goods being taken out of the colony. This property has actually been preserved by my clients and it has cost them a considerable sum to do it; yet under the Ordinance my clients do not get any costs at all, and if this matter goes into bankruptcy they will be in a much worse position than any other creditor. This is rather a hardship on persons in the position of my clients.

Leung U, managing partner of the petitioning firm, said he had had transactions with the three firms, principally with Li Pang Cho. He had been told there were other partners.

In the affidavit the witness had made he had sworn that to the best of his information and belief Li Pang Cho and Wan Kam were the only two partners, and his Lordship, in pointing this out, said, "I am afraid these affidavits are somewhat unreliable."

Witness—I have heard there are one or two others in the firm.

His Lordship—Does the witness understand that this was a solemn and true declaration? Did he mean solemnly, sincerely, and truly to declare that to the best of his knowledge there were no other persons in this firm; or is that a mistake?

Witness—I meant that they were partners.

His Lordship—Did he mean there were no other partners?

Witness said he did not mean that they were the only partners, but that they were the only two that carried on business. He then said that one promissory note given on 23rd July last was for \$1,000 and the other was for \$500, both sums being first paid to the Mi Cheung firm.

His Lordship said that Mr. Reece could not get a receiving order against the Kwan Cheung and Hung Cheung firms.

Mr. Reece submitted he was entitled to a receiving order against the Mi Cheung firm on the promissory notes.

Mr. Hastings—We have seized the goods of the Kwan Cheung firm and they are now in the hands of the Registrar. We have nothing to do with Mi Cheung, but there is another execution against the Hung Cheung firm, and I have also seized their goods.

Mr. Reece said he would not press for a receiving order except against the two persons.

Li Kung Ki, accountant to the Hung Cheung firm, said he saw Li Pang Cho go to Canton by steamer on August 15th. Wan Kam went on the following day, but witness did not see him on the steamer.

His Lordship (reading witness's affidavit)—"Saw him leave by the steamer *Honam*." Is that your solemn, sincere, and true declaration?

Witness—Yes, I did see him.

His Lordship—Did you see him leave by the steamer *Honam*?

Witness—Yes.

His Lordship—Well, why do you tell lies here and say you did not. Oh, dear! These people's statements are thoroughly unreliable. I cannot say who are the partners on this evidence. I am not satisfied that there are not other partners; the evidence is altogether unreliable. You can take a receiving order on the Mi Cheung firm and describe these people as partners and give their aliases. There is a hardship about the costs of people who have been the means of preserving property of an estate.

Mr. Hastings—The old law was that they got their costs out of the estate first.

His Lordship—It is a hardship, and if anything can be done in this particular case I certainly would like to see your interests in that respect attended to.

Mr. Reece—I quite admit it is a hardship, but it is the law at present.

Mr. Hastings—It keeps people from taking proceedings very much because we have to tell them they will not get any costs.

His Lordship—It is a matter upon which you might fairly make a representation to the Attorney-General, and I shall be very glad to assist if he consults me about it.

Mr. Hastings—I think a small amending

Ordinance might easily be brought in on the subject.

His Lordship—There must always be a day fixed for a debtor's examination, although there may be no chance of the debtor appearing to be examined. A day must be appointed, and if a debtor keeps away a warrant can be taken out. I have noticed in one or two cases lately, when there was no chance of the debtor appearing, the form of appointing a day has been dispensed with. I will fix this day fortnight for the examination of the debtors.

10th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

CHOO FOO LAU V. W. D. LEIGHTON.

The plaintiff sought to recover \$990.25, the value of 642 bags of sugar shipped for delivery in Hongkong, and for which he could not obtain delivery from the defendant, who is the captain of the steamship *Bonnington*.

Mr. Ewens appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hastings represented the defendant.

Mr. Ewens said there were no pleadings and no special defence and therefore he would simply call the plaintiff.

Wong U, assistant to the plaintiff, said he expected in April last to take delivery of 13,535 bags of sugar, according to the bill of lading, but he received only 12,840 bags, and between 300 and 400 of them were broken. He asked defendant's mate for the remainder—642 bags. The bill of lading was in excess of the actual number shipped, which accounts for the balance appearing to be greater than it was. The mate did not deliver the bags, and witness had to leave the boat, as she was just about to start. Previous to leaving witness looked round the boat, but saw no other sugar there. The Choo Foo Lau firm were the consignees of the cargo, and they had not been paid the value of the bags they did not get.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hastings—The sugar was shipped at Samarang and witness produced the mate's receipts for it when it was shipped at that port.

Mr. Hastings drew his Lordship's attention to the receipts, 38 in number, and said that each one contained statements to the effect that the bags were broken and damaged, and in many instances the mate wrote that he could not be responsible for the weight. The bill of lading had the following statement upon it—"Steamer not responsible for drainage; bags torn and broken." There was also this extraordinary clause—"This bill of lading is consigned without mate's receipts, and does not bind the captain unless the mate's receipts are produced." That clause was doubtless put in in consequence of the statements in the mate's receipts.

Witness, in answer to further questions, said that some of the bags were without sugar. There was not a lot of loose sugar at the bottom of the hold. It was not true, as the captain had said, that there were 50 to 80 tons of loose sugar and molasses at the bottom of the hold, and the men were not working in it up to their knees. Most of the sugar was unmarked. It was shipped by five consignees altogether, and each consignment was divided by boards. He should take it as false that "it was impossible to identify each consignment on arrival, because the bags were all covered with molasses and no marks could be made out,"—a statement made by the mate. Witness received the sugar he had on the 20th and 22nd April, and he was not asked on the 18th and 19th to send lighters for the cargo, and Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co., who were then the agents, did not send their coolie with a similar message.

Mr. Hastings said the case for the defence was that the sugar shipped at Samarang was in an extremely bad condition. The bags were rotten, and they were not fit to bear the weight of the sugar, and when they were being slung they broke and the sugar ran out. There were no marks on them, and on arrival here it was impossible to distinguish between the various consignments, and the consignees went on board and took the cargo as it came. There was no water in the holds, and no damage was done on the way to Hongkong. The plaintiff's witness was on

board from the beginning, but for some reason or other he did not send his lighters until almost the last day, although requested to do so by the agents and the captain. At the bottom of the hold an enormous quantity of loose sugar and molasses was found, the captain estimating that there were from 50 to 80 tons. Plaintiff refused to take anything but sound bags, and threw down the broken bags, and then found that there were 642 bags short. The chief officer then said "Well, there is your cargo and bags in the hold, and you can take them; that is all I can do."

The evidence of the captain and officers on board the *Bonnington* taken *de bene esse* was then read, and it bore out the statement made in defence.

Mr. G. B. Dodwell was called and said that on 22nd April last Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill and Co. were the agents for the *Bonnington*, but Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co. were the agents before. There was no necessity when the vessel arrived here to hurry out the cargo, and two or three days would not have made any difference.

Mr. Karberg was also called and stated that Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co. were the agents for the *Bonnington* on her inward voyage. No complaints were made to him by plaintiff that the captain would not let him take the cargo.

In cross-examination witness said that no attempt was made to settle the case by witness, who would not pay anything in consequence of the statements on the bill of lading. The captain afterwards offered \$225 to the plaintiff.

Mr. Hastings, in support of his case, said it had been held that where cargo could not be distinguished it belonged to the various consignees, as tenants in common, in the proportions in which it was shipped. The bags were broken in consequence of their rotten condition, and therefore he should have taken the good, bad, and indifferent bags, whereas he would take only the sound bags. The ship could not be held responsible for the breakage of the bags or the loss of the sugar, and it was plaintiff's own fault if he did not get as much of the cargo in proportion as the other consignees got.

Mr. Ewens, in reply, said it was clear that the captain knew he was wrong, because he had made an offer to the plaintiff.

Mr. Hastings said that the offer was not an admission of liability.

His Lordship, in reserving judgment, said he should not take the offer into consideration.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

The following correspondence with regard to the military contribution has been forwarded to us for publication:—

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Hongkong, 23rd August, 1895.

Sir,—We have given our most careful consideration to your letter of the 2nd instant, addressed to the Senior Unofficial Member, in which you transmit the proposal of the late Secretary of State for the Colonies with regard to the military contribution to be paid by the colony, and would now beg to submit certain considerations in this connection.

1.—The amount fixed by the Secretary of State, viz., 17½ per cent. on the revenue of the colony, with the exception of land sales and the premia on leases, would appear to be based on that of the contribution to be paid by Singapore, which is also 17½ per cent. Permit us, however, to point out a fact which may have escaped the notice of the Secretary of State, namely, that the revenues of the two colonies are on a somewhat different basis, for Singapore has a Municipal Council, and so a distinct municipal revenue, which is exempted from the military contribution, while in Hongkong the figures of the municipal and of the rest of the revenue are shown together. It does not appear clear to us from the Secretary of State's despatches whether he recognizes the existence of this difference, as he seems to include the municipal revenue of Hongkong in the amount on which the 17½ per cent. has to be paid. Against this we must protest, and we would beg to lay

before him some most important considerations against such a proceeding.

We consider that the municipal revenue of Hongkong should be treated on the same footing as that of Singapore, the more so because most of the important municipal works of Hongkong have been paid for by means of loans. From many of them we derive a considerable revenue, out of which we have to find the interest on the loans and provide a sinking fund; and it hardly seems reasonable to ask us at the same time to do this and also to be paying for the military contribution 17½ per cent. of these revenues.

2.—It may be objected that if the amount of the municipal revenue, say, \$700,000, be subtracted from the total estimated revenue of the colony, the military contribution would not reach the sterling sum of £40,000. But we would ask you, sir, if it has not been our constant contention that this sum has always been too heavy a burden for this colony to bear. At the time when it was imposed we assented to it, as exchange was comparatively high, but ever since then it has been falling; in 1891 we paid \$254,211.12 and in 1894 \$371,647.50. The burden has therefore become more and more irksome, as we have constantly represented. Now, however, exchange is rising, and the sums which we should have to pay in dollars, if the same arrangement were adhered to, would be becoming less and less. On the other hand, with the proposed new arrangement, the Imperial Government, receiving a fixed sum of 17½ per cent. in dollars, will naturally benefit the higher exchange goes. This should be taken into consideration, and also the fact that they will have the advantage both in the fall and the rise.

3.—It must be further borne in mind that any increase in the revenue of the colony will mean a corresponding one in the military contribution. Now, we are informed on good authority that the revenue for this year, instead of being, as estimated, \$2,018,000, will probably be nearer \$2,300,000, meaning a larger military contribution. There seems to be every reason for hoping that each succeeding year will show a fresh increase in the revenue, so that there would seem to be little cause for the Imperial Government to fear that our military contribution will be inadequate.

It may be argued that if in 1894, when our revenue was \$2,287,203, we were able to pay \$371,647.50 as a military contribution, it should not be difficult for us to pay what the Imperial Government now demands. But what was the result of this heavy disbursement? That to carry on the public works of the colony we were obliged to raise loans, with which we are still saddled. Yet another effect is that we were so straitened for means that the Government buildings were neglected, and now we find that most of our public buildings are condemned, and that we shall have to rebuild them at a cost, we are given to understand, of \$650,000. If we are again without funds we shall find ourselves in the same difficulty as before, and burdened by a further debt.

We would beg you, sir, to lay our representations before the Secretary of State. That they are well founded we think there can be no contention, and we are confident that, when our case is put before him, he will acknowledge the justice of it. We merely ask to be placed on a par with our sister colony, and to be allowed to apply our own revenues to our own needs. We are most anxious to meet the Imperial Government in every way that we feel is consistent with justice and fairness, and if they will agree to the point we have raised, there will be no hesitation on our part in supporting the Ordinance asked for.

With regard to the colony's contribution for "Barrack Services," we know that the rate-payers will very much resent being called upon to pay for works which, without any reference to them or their representatives, have been already completed, or are nearing completion. We may say that we concur in this feeling, and therefore feel ourselves bound to oppose any proposal that the colony should be called upon to bear a share in this expenditure. The case is different with those works which have not yet been begun, and if His Excellency the Governor would bring forward a financial minute regarding them, we should be prepared

to consider it.—We have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servants,

C. P. CHATER.
HO KAI.
E. R. BELILIOS.
A. MCCONACHIE.
J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
August 31st, 1895.

Gentlemen,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant on the subject of the military contribution and to inform you that a copy of it has been forwarded to the Secretary of State for his favourable consideration.

His Excellency does not desire your letter to be considered as confidential.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Honourable C. P. Chater and other Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council.

THE GAP ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS DO NOT RECOMMEND A NEW LIGHT.

The following correspondence has been forwarded to us for publication:—

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
4th February, 1895.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to transmit for the consideration of yourself and the other Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council the accompanying copies of a report by Messrs. Coode, Son, and Matthews on the subject of the Gap Rock Lighthouse, and to request you to be so good as to bring the matter before your colleagues at your early convenience.

The Governor is of opinion that there is no alternative but to adopt Mr. Matthews' recommendations as to the building of a new lighthouse and the removal of the present building. His Excellency, therefore, hopes that you and your colleagues will see the desirability of supporting the Government in this matter in view of the possible loss of shipping and life if the buildings are allowed to remain in their present position.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable C. P. Chater, Senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council.

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

20th February, 1895.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 4th inst., in which you ask me to bring the matter of the Gap Rock Lighthouse before my unofficial colleagues, I beg to inform you that we held a meeting on the 16th inst., at which it was decided that before our expressing any opinion on it, this question, being essentially a commercial one, should first be submitted to the Chamber of Commerce, in which the shipping interests, which are those chiefly affected, are fully represented, and that that body be requested to state its views on the matter.

It was further decided to bring before you a suggestion that Messrs. Coode, Son, & Matthews' report, together with this correspondence, be sent to the local press for publication, so that mariners, and others in a position to pronounce an opinion, might be afforded an opportunity of commenting on it.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

C. P. CHATER.

Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, Acting Colonial Secretary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
26th August, 1895.

Sir,—With reference to my letter No. 252 of the 4th February last on the subject of a

report by Messrs. Cooile, Son, and Matthews on the Gap Rock Lighthouse, and to your reply thereto of the 20th idem, I am directed to inform you that in accordance with the suggestion of the Unofficial Members the Chamber of Commerce has been consulted in the matter, and that it recommended that before adopting the measures suggested by Mr. Matthews a further opinion should be obtained, preferably that of an officer of the Imperial Chinese Customs.

Sir Robert Hart has accordingly been communicated with as suggested by the Chamber, but has expressed regret that he has no officer available for the service.

In the above circumstances His Excellency the Governor would be glad to learn whether the Unofficial Members have any further suggestion to make, or whether they are of opinion that Mr. Matthews' recommendations should be adopted.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable C. P. Chater, &c., &c., &c.

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Hongkong, 3rd September 1895.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 26th ult., regarding the Gap Rock Lighthouse, I have to inform you that at a meeting of the Unofficial Members it was unanimously decided that we could not, in view of the heavy expense entailed, recommend H.E. the Governor to adopt Mr. Matthews' suggestions.

We would advise that all precautions possible be taken to strengthen the existing buildings and light, and that extra sets of lantern glasses, &c., be provided, and always kept in stock on the spot.

We would also recommend, to ensure the safety of the keepers, that a refuge be constructed for them, to which they might retire in time of danger.

As, in your last despatch *in re* the Military Contribution, you state that H.E. the Governor does not wish to consider the letter of the Unofficial Members on that subject as confidential, we presume that there would be no objection to our publishing this correspondence also.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

C. P. CHATER.

Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
September 5th, 1895.

Sir,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant on the subject of the Gap Rock Lighthouse, and to state that the recommendations of the Unofficial Members therein contained will receive due consideration.

His Excellency the Governor has no objection to the publication of the correspondence on this subject.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. C. P. Chater.

THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN LETTERS IN HONGKONG.

At the Magistracy on Tuesday seven coolies who were arrested on the previous day for infringing the exclusive privileges of the Postmaster-General of Hongkong were brought before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse. They had been for some time carrying letters from Macao to this colony in a surreptitious manner.

Inspector Quincey said the Postmaster asked for the discharge of the whole of the prisoners.

Hon. A. K. Travers, Postmaster-General, stepped into the witness box and said—I wish to withdraw the charge against these men. In doing so I should like to explain that on seeing the letter in the *Hongkong Telegraph* from "Observer," I sent up to the Colonial Secretary's Office for papers relating to the matter. The question has been gone into before, and it was decided that a notice should be sent to the Chinese

explaining the law in regard to letters sent from foreign post offices. Those notices were issued in 1892, and I decided that they should be repeated. If after then Chinese do not carry out the law they will be proceeded against under the Ordinance. These arrests were made before the Chinese had an opportunity of having the law explained a second time, and I wanted to have the notice repeated before really enforcing the law, so as to give them every chance.

The Magistrate—Are these prosecutions issued by you?

Witness—No.

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police—The prosecutions were instituted by the Police. I did not know about the notices, and I was going to prosecute all the foreign post offices doing business with Bangkok, Macao, and Singapore, and I began with Macao yesterday. The law was passed a long time ago.

The Magistrate—What is the Ordinance you are prosecuting under?

Inspector Quincey—Ordinance 1 of 1887, section 5.

The Magistrate (to the Postmaster-General).—Do you wish me to say anything to the defendants?

The Postmaster-General—It would be just as well to warn them what the Ordinance says.

The Magistrate (to the defendants)—You are charged with infringing the exclusive privileges of the Postmaster. It seems that what you were doing has been going on for a long time in the colony, and therefore before any prosecution is entered on it is thought advisable that you should have full notice that what you are doing is contrary to the law. No such notice has been given and therefore, even if you are guilty, no notice will be taken of the offence on this occasion, as the Postmaster has asked for the charge to be withdrawn. That does not mean that you have not committed any offence, but that no notice will be taken of it on this occasion. Of course if you continue to do what you have been doing you will do so at your own risk and you will be prosecuted. You are now discharged.

AN EXCESS OF PASSENGERS: HEAVY FINE.

At the Police Court on Monday, before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, Captain Hygom, of the steamship *Ask*, was summoned for carrying thirty passengers in excess of the number allowed by his licence. P.C. 52 said that on the 25th August he boarded the *Ask* just as the anchor was being weighed. He counted the passengers and found 130 on board; the certificate allowed only 100 passengers. Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings asked for a substantial penalty, and his Worship fined the defendant \$100 and \$2 for each of the passengers in excess—\$160 in all. The captain said he was on the bridge at the time and had no idea there were so many passengers.

Messrs. Villa, Lopez and Co., the agents, were summoned for allowing the excess number of passengers to be carried. The constable gave evidence and Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings said that on the 24th August he learnt that the *Ask* had a new charterer. The clerk to the agents went to the Harbour Office and made enquiries as to the number of passengers the ship was allowed to carry. He was told, and at the same time an application was made for permission to ship kerosine at night. Permission was given, and witness told P.C. 52 to get into a sampan and watch the steamer. It was by means of this action that the constable got to know how many passengers there were on the boat.

The Magistrate asked the representative of the agents how he could prove that the passengers were shipped without the knowledge of the agents and that they derived no profit or benefit from the excess number.

The agents' representative said the agents did not know anything about the excess number until yesterday morning. He asked the steamer's comprador what he meant by taking passengers in excess. He said, "They came on without my knowledge, and as I could not get them off I got their fares—\$1 each."

The Magistrate—Did he hand the money over to the agents?

The agents' representative—No. It is a clear case of embezzlement on the part of the comprador and we intend to issue a summons against him.

The Magistrate adjourned the case until Tuesday in order that the comprador might give evidence. If what the agents' representative had said was sworn to by the comprador there would be a complete answer.

At the Police Court on Tuesday, before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, the hearing was resumed of the case in which Messrs. Villa, Lopez & Co. were summoned for allowing the steamship *Ask* to attempt to leave the waters of the colony with an excess number of passengers.

Mr. Wilkinson now appeared for the defendants, and said the summons was directed to no one in person, but he did not raise any objection to the form of the summons. He intended to simply call Mr. Birchall, the representative of the defendants, and possibly the comprador.

Mr. T. Birchall, representative in this colony of Messrs. Villa, Lopez & Co., the charterers of the *Ask*, said—I have heard that the steamer left Hongkong with an excess number of passengers. They left without my knowledge, and I issued tickets only for the number allowed—107. I derived no profit whatever from the excess number.

Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings said he would like to ask the witness one or two questions.

Mr. Wilkinson objected.

Hon. Commander Hastings—I am acting Harbour Master.

Mr. Wilkinson—He has no *locus standi* in this case. This is a summons before your Worship as Magistrate. I object to my friend interfering.

The Magistrate.—He is prosecuting.

Mr. Wilkinson—He is not prosecuting.

The Magistrate—Yes, he is; he is Acting Harbour Master.

Mr. Wilkinson—P.C. 52 is the complainant, and Messrs. Villa, Lopez and Co. are the defendants.

Hon. Commander Hastings proceeded to question the witness, and said—Has the comprador rendered any account, since his return, of the passengers carried?

Witness—The comprador has nothing to do with the return.

Hon. Commander Hastings—Has the comprador any authority to take fares from passengers in addition to those paid for at the office?

Witness—He was told not to carry an excess number.

Hon. Commander Hastings—Is it the intention of the defendants to prosecute the comprador for embezzlement?

Mr. Wilkinson—I object to that question.

The Magistrate—I shall not allow the question to be put.

Hon. Commander Hastings—I respectfully submit that it is a question of the *bona fides* of this witness. It is not as if the passengers rushed on board from a wharf, and there is no proof that the defendants derived no profit or that any attempt was made to see that only the proper number of passengers was on board.

Mr. Wilkinson—It is an improper suggestion that this witness has come here to perjure himself for the sake of gaining for his firm \$40, which was the utmost profit that could be derived from the excess of passengers. I submit it is satisfactorily proved to your Worship that the defendants derived no profit whatever.

The Magistrate—I do not think there has been any case made out against the defendants, and in addition to the evidence given by the witness it is in his favour that the number of passengers applied for was less than the number allowed by the clearance. That number was 100, whereas the ship is allowed to carry 107 passengers. The case is dismissed.

A Shanghai native paper reports that a Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company is expected soon to be established in Nanking by German merchants. For this reason the manager of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. has been to Nanking to interview H.E. Chang Chih-tung to obtain permission to carry out the scheme. It is further said that he has had a favourable answer from the Viceroy.

THE EXTRAORDINARY DEATH AT CAPSUIMOON.

THE ENQUIRY CLOSED.

At the Magistracy on the 4th inst. Hon. H. E. Wodehouse concluded his enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Lam Po, a boatman in the Chinese Customs, whose body was found in Aberdeen Harbour on 6th August and whose death was supposed to have been caused by falling off the Customs launch at Capsuimoon on 1st August.

No further evidence was called, and his Worship, in closing the enquiry, said—I find that death resulted from hemorrhage and shock occasioned by mutilation of the body and the wound on the left leg, but under what circumstances occurring there is no evidence to show.

THE GYMKHANA MEETING.

By some extraordinary freak the weather actually allowed the fourth Gymkhana meeting to be held on the day first fixed, and there was an exceptionally good attendance at the Happy Valley on Saturday to watch the proceedings. Amongst those present were his Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, Major General Black, and Commodore Boyes, and many ladies were also in the enclosure. The programme contained six events, of which only two were pony races, but there could be no mistake about the keen interest which was displayed in the novel events. The most amusing was undoubtedly the "white tie race." The competitors had to accomplish various feats, amongst the most notable being the drawing of a pig, for which points were awarded. The judges certainly had a difficult task in the pig part of the race. Goodness knows what standard they adopted for the giving of points, because the drawings represented the most extraordinary Berkshires ever seen; indeed they might have been anything from a jellyfish to a brick. But it did not follow that the most accomplished artist would gain the prize, as the winner, Mr. Landale, obtained only one point for his production, but he made up his winning points by good riding and a neat tie. Both pony races were productive of plenty of excitement, and altogether the afternoon was very enjoyably spent. The band of the Hongkong Regiment attended by permission of Colonel Barrow and the officers and played several selections of music.

The following were the officials:—

Patrons—His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., His Excellency Major-General Black, C.B., Commodore G. T. H. Boyes, R.N.

Committee:—Capt. Gould-Adams, R.A., Mr. R. Alexander, R.B., Mr. T. F. Hough, Lieut-Col. Barrow, H.K.R., Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. Hart Buck, Lord Chas. Conyngham, R.B., Mr. W. A. Cruickshank, Capt. Gordon, R.A., Mr. R. M. Gray, Capt. Loveband, A.D.C., Mr. A. S. Manners, Mr. G. C. C. Master, Lt.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Mr. C. S. Taylor, Commander W. F. Tunnard, R.N.

Judges.—Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Lieut. Col. The O'Gorman.

Handicappers.—The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Mr. R. M. Gray, Mr. Hart Buck.

Starter.—Capt. Gould-Adams.

Clerk of the Scales.—Mr. R. Alexander.

Timekeeper.—Mr. R. M. Gray.

Hon. Treasurer, Mr. G. C. C. Master.

Hon. Secretary.—Mr. T. F. Hough.

FOOT RACE FOR EUROPEANS; 50 YARDS WHEELBARROW RACE. First prize \$8.00; second \$6.00; third \$4.00; fourth \$2.00.

There were not many people present to witness the fun in this race, which resulted in a close finish, Private Brickwood being the winner, and Private Dillon second.

HALF MILE RACE, HANDICAP; for all China Ponies. First prize a cup value about \$40; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent.

Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving's Daylight, 11st. 11lbs. (Mr. Landale) 1

Capt. Radclyffe's Dandy, 11st. 12lbs. (Owner) 2

Mr. Cruickshank's Warlock, 11st. 2lbs. (Owner) 3

Major Moore's Sweetbriar, 11st. 4lbs. (Mr. Paley) 0

Mr. Lewin's Tommy, 10st. 5lbs. (Lord Conyngham) 0

There was some difficulty in getting the horses away, and after a start had been made Daylight obtained a slight lead. Passing the village he was closely attended by Dandy, Warlock, and Tommy. Daylight increased his lead in the straight, and Warlock was near the rails. A hundred yards from the past Dandy drew out, but could not overtake Daylight, who won a good race by three lengths; two lengths between second and third. Time, 63 secs.

TENT PEGGING COMPETITION; three runs allowed, points deducted for style and pace; Entrance fee \$1.00. First prize a Cup presented by His Excellency Major-General Black, C.B.; second the entrance fees.

There were eight competitors and Mr. Landale and Mr. Cruickshank each gained three points, but the prize was awarded to Mr. Cruickshank for the better style of pegging. The other competitors scored as follows:—

Capt. Welman	1
Lieut-Col. The O'Gorman	2
Capt. Burney	1
Capt. Loveband	1
Mr. Salmon	0
Mr. Drury	0

LADIES' NOMINATION "WHITE TIE RACE," competitors to start from flag a distance down the course, ride to winning post, get white dinner ties tied by nominators, mount, ride to table at starting post, dismount, draw a pig on paper, mount again, and finish at winning post. Two prizes.

Conditions.—3 points for each good tie and drawing. 2 points for each middling tie and drawing. 1 point for each bad tie and drawing. 3 points for first past winning post. 2 points for second past winning post.

Competitors having equal number of points will be placed in the order of their finishing past the winning post.

Mr. D. Landale	Mrs. Hawkins	1
Mr. A. D. H. Grayson	Mrs. Drury	2
Mr. W. A. Cruickshank	Mrs. Gray	+3
Captain Welman	Mrs. Welman	+3
Mr. J. S. Bruce	Mrs. Sansom	0
Capt. Radclyffe	Mrs. Eccles	0
Capt. Loveband	Miss Boyes	0
Mr. G. N. Salmon	Mrs. Moore	0
Mr. Paley	Madame O'Gorman	0
Mr. Peter	Miss Jackson	0

This was a very interesting event, but the most amusing part, the drawing of a pig, could not be seen by the public. There were ten riders and in their hurry to get remounted they each libelled the pig in a most flagrant fashion. One pig had only three legs; not one had a snout.

HANDICAP, ONCE ROUND; for all China ponies. First prize a Cup value about \$50 presented; second 70 per cent. of entrance fees; third 30 per cent.

Mr. Hart Buck's Voltigeur, 11st. 2lbs. (Owner) 1

Mr. Little's Chesai, 11st. 3lbs. Lieut-Col. The O'Gorman 2

Captain Radclyffe's Dandy, 10st. 3lbs. (Owner) 3

Lord C. Conyngham's Glenties, 11st. 6lbs. (Owner) 0

Mr. W. D. Graham's Baccarat, 11st. 5lbs. (Mr. Landale) 0

Mr. Cruickshank's Warlock, 11st. 1lb. (Owner) 0

Major Moore's Sweetbriar, 11st. (Mr. Master) 0

The horses were got well away in a bunch, but on passing the plantation Voltigeur drew to the front and maintained the lead throughout. In the straight Chesai made a gallant attempt to overtake Mr. Buck's horse, but failed by a length; a bad third. Time 1 min. 59 secs.

FOOT RACE, SACK RACE, BLINDFOLD; distance 50 yards. First prize \$6.00; second \$4.50; third \$3.00. Open to native soldiers and police.

The concluding event was decided in heats and the competitors, all of whom were Indians, seemed to enjoy the race as much as the spectators.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

The above Cup was played for in the Happy Valley from Saturday, 31st August, to Monday, 2nd September, and won by Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins with a net score of 82, the Sweepstakes falling to Mr. Gershom Stewart. The returns were fewer than usual, although the entries show no falling off. Results:—

Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins	97	15	82
*Mr. Gershom Stewart	90	6	84
Captain O. P. Marshall	105	21	84
Mr. Clement Palmer	96	11	85
*Captain W. V. Eccles, R.B.	89	3	86

* Also entered for the Sweepstakes.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

The Short Range Cup was competed for by twenty-three members on 31st August won outright by Private Godbeer, R.B. Considering that Private Godbeer on the last two occasions of winning competed from "scratch" against several members receiving from 12 to 15 points, his success was most creditable. A new Cup will be started. The Spoons were won by G. White, J. Lowrie, Lt. Lee Dillon, Lt. Close, and W. Duncan. The following were the best scores:—

	500 yds.	600 yds.	Handicap.	Total.
Pte. Godbeer, R.B.	32	32	—	64
G. White	24	26	14	64
J. Lowrie	32	27	2	61
Lt. Lee-Dillon	27	29	4	60
Lt. Close	22	27	10	59
W. Duncan	31	23	4	58
W. Stewart	27	24	6	57
Pte. Gigg, R.B.	23	24	10	57

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."] SIR,—Your contemporary the *China Mail* has the following paragraph in its issue of the 31st ult., with reference to the above Company:—"The steamer *Tigris* is the first of two new steamers to arrive for Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. They are to engage in general coasting trade, but will, in all probability, be retained principally for the Southern trade—Bangkok, Java, &c. The other steamer, the *Amara*, is expected soon. Six new steamers are building for the Indo-China Company, which may be taken as an indication that the business of this Company is in a flourishing condition. One of the steamers is destined for the Yangtze River trade, one will replace the *Wingsang* on the Hongkong-Calcutta run, and the *Wingsang* will be placed upon the general coasting trade between Hongkong and the North."

Now, sir, the exact criterion of the prosperous business of any joint-stock company should be the market value of its scrip. If such is, as it should be, the sole measurement of the prosperity of a public company, I regret to observe that the business of this Company may be termed far from being prosperous, as after having written off £301,175 ls. 11d. out of its paid-up capital of £495,890 as shown below:—

Year.	Depreciation	Account
	£	s. d.
1882	12,000	0 0
1883	13,370	0 0
1884	19,923	1 11
1885	21,873	0 0
1886	24	0 0
1887	33,363	0 0
1888	33,456	0 0
1889	25,489	0 0
1890	23,817	0 0
1891	25,772	0 0
1892	20,000	0 0
1893	20,000	0 0
1894	35,891	0 0

and having built up an underwriting account of £78,280 13s. 9d., the shares of the Company, which are fully paid-up £10, are quoted \$47.

It is difficult to make out why the shares are quoted so low. It may be attributable to some latent cause which is hard to fathom. But the above figures clearly demonstrate that the intrinsic value of the scrip is far ahead of its market value.

A SHAREHOLDER.

Hongkong, 4th September, 1895.

THE MAGISTRACY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The ordinary routine work at the Police Court may appear of but slight importance to many of your readers, but it is of very great importance to those whose daily avocations necessitate their constant attendance at the Magistracy and it may at any moment become of vital and direct importance to any individual in the community who, either as complainant, defendant, or a witness, may have to put in an attendance and after being kept waiting for hours may be obliged to admit that the cheese-paring policy of the Retrenchment Committee has been a thorough mistake as far as the Police Court is concerned.

My reason for addressing you now is that I yesterday heard a rumour to the effect that the present Magistrate was likely to be going away on leave shortly, and, although the rumour may be baseless, it affords a good opportunity of pointing out to the Government the necessity that exists for appointing two properly trained Magistrates to do the work that the present occupant of the Bench has been attempting.

In this climate it is impossible for any one man to properly carry out the work that has now to be put through at the Police Court single-handed, and should there be a likelihood of the present post becoming vacant I would strongly urge upon the Government the absolute necessity that exists for reverting to the old order of things. There should be at least two Magistrates and the appointment of two barristers would probably give greater satisfaction than filling up the posts with junior civil servants who have had no legal training.—Yours, &c.,

INTERESTED.

Hongkong, 6th September 1895.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—As the few lines I addressed to you on Saturday last appear to have been misunderstood in some quarters, I should like to state that I was not writing in the interests of any practising barrister. There are two barristers in the Government service who might, I should suppose, be detailed for the Police Court; but, if their services are not available, an outside barrister might hold the post of Acting Magistrate, while a barrister in the Government service might hold the substantive appointment. The chief object of my addressing you, however, was to point out to the Government the necessity that exists for having two Magistrates if the work is to be properly carried on.—Yours, etc.,

INTERESTED.

Hongkong, 10th September, 1895.

S. C. FARNHAM & CO., LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of this Company took place at Shanghai on the 3rd September. There were present Messrs. G. Galles (Chairman) and J. R. Twentyman (Directors), A. Miller, G. W. Noel, W. Pearce, A. Shearer, W. R. Kahler, G. R. Corner, D. Cranston, D. T. Black, H. von Rucker, S. Groundwater, and J. S. Knowles (Secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said—With the permission of the shareholders we will take the report and accounts as read. The accounts have been made up in the same way as at the end of the first two years, and I believe do not require much explanation. Your directors are pleased to be able to lay before you accounts which show a considerable increase of business over last year. Interest and dividends on our investments as well as profit on shares sold have considerably increased the net results of the year's working. Last year I told you that we had bought a number of our own shares to form part of a reserve fund. We found it, however,

advisable to dispose of them and sold them at a fair profit. Our shares in the Shanghai Dock Co. left us also a good margin when that company was liquidated. You are aware that we acquired the Old Dock property this spring and the item for rent will therefore disappear in future. We further bought the wreck of the *Drumellan* last December at Nagasaki and have thoroughly repaired her. She has been re-classed 100 A1 at Lloyds, but as she was not completed on the 30th of June last, we could only include a part of her cost in the accounts. The vessel is now loading for New York and expected to leave at the end of the month. I must mention that in order to keep pace with the times your directors have decided to build a new dock at our Lower Dock premises capable of accommodating the largest steamers which may come to Shanghai. If any shareholder has any questions to ask, I shall be pleased to answer them.

No questions being asked, The CHAIRMAN proposed and it was seconded by Mr. TWENTYMAN that the report and accounts of the Company for the year ended 29th of June, 1895, as printed and circulated, be adopted and approved, and that the directors be authorised to pay a dividend at the rate of Tls. 12 per share to the shareholders on the register at this date.

This was carried unanimously. It was proposed by Mr. NOEL, seconded by Mr. A. MILLER and carried, that Mr. G. R. Corner be re-elected auditor for the present year.

Mr. MILLER proposed a vote of thanks to the directors, which was carried by acclamation and the meeting separated.

The following was the report of the Board of Directors submitted to the meeting:—

Gentlemen,—The directors have much pleasure in submitting to you their report with statements of accounts for the year ending 26th June last.

The loss in sterling and dollar exchanges during the year was fortunately compensated for by a considerable increase of business, our gross earnings amounting to Tals 738,821.96, being Tals 204,456.04 more than in the previous year.

During the year your directors acquired the "Old Dock" property for the sum of Tals 150,000, which they consider a very valuable addition to the Company's properties.

The net profits, after paying all charges, amount to Tals 172,424.48, including Tals 7,551.71 carried forward from last year.

This amount the directors propose to appropriate as follows:—

A dividend of Tals 12 per share.....	Tals. 90,000.00
Amount to be placed to credit of reserve fund	65,000.00
Amount to be written off for depreciation.	10,000.00
Balance to be carried to new account	7,424.48
	Tals 172,424.48

In accordance with the articles of association the present directors remain in office.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Geo. R. Corner, and the directors recommend his re-election.

WORKING ACCOUNT.

1st July, 1894.	Dr.	Tals.
To stock on hand and unfinished work...		194,631.34
29th June, 1895.		
To goods imported during the year, coal and sundry purchase		358,189.89
To labour, salaries, wages, general trade expenses, etc.....		254,160.13
To taxes paid during the year		971.41
To fire insurance		809.61
To rent of "Old Dock" (9 months) and China Merchants' property.....		9,900.00
To directors', auditor's and Hongkong agency fees		2,000.00
To balance to profit and loss account.....		164,872.77
		Tals 985,535.15

29th June, 1895.	Cr.	Tals.
By gross earnings during the year.....		738,821.96
By interest, dividends and profits on shares		25,479.20
By rents from Chinese Broadway property, less taxes, insurance, and repairs		2,163.02
By transfer fees.....		56.11
By unfinished work and outstanding bills, less liabilities		39,042.50
By stock on hand		179,972.36
		Tals 985,535.15

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

29th June, 1895.	Tals.
To balance	172,424.48
	Tals 172,424.48
1st July, 1894.	Tals.
By balance carried forward.....	7,551.71
29th June, 1895.	
By transfer from working account.....	164,872.77
	Tals 172,424.48

BALANCE SHEET.—CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

29th June, 1895.	ASSETS.	Tals.
To "Old Dock," "Tunkadoo," and "Lower Dock" properties, with buildings, pumping gear, etc., land and buildings in Hongkew		459,000.00
To machinery at three docks, electric light plant, etc.		154,099.65
To launches, pile-drivers, pontoons, office and drawing office materials, furniture, wrecking gear, shears, dock plant, etc.		36,925.00
To stock of moulders, fitters, copper-smiths, boiler-makers, carpenters, and dock tools at three docks		29,375.35
To property with Chinese houses in Broadway		32,000.00
To shares in public shipping and insurance companies, and part cost of 4 masted barque <i>Drumellan</i>		50,062.35
To stock of material on hand, unfinished work and outstanding bills, less liabilities		219,014.86
To sundry debtors		81,687.37
To cash in hand		960.88
		Tals 1,063,125.46

29th June, 1895.	LIABILITIES.	Tals.
By shareholders for paid-up capital, 7,500 shares at Tals 100		750,000.00
By reserve fund		65,000.00
By depreciation and maintenance account		30,000.00
By sundry creditors.....		35,100.00
By Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		10,600.98
By balance from profit and loss account...		172,424.48
		Tals 1,063,125.46

THE KUCHENG COMMISSION.

PROGRESS OF THE INQUIRY.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."] Foochow, 6th September, 11.15 a.m.

Miss Hartford's assailant has been caught and brought to Kucheng. He led the others to the mountain and began the massacre.

A hundred and thirty prisoners have been arrested and twenty-three convicted.

No sentences have been passed. All the evidence must be submitted to the Viceroy for his decision.

Important arrests are being made daily.

Foochow, 26th August.

THE CHINESE OFFICIALS YIELD.—THE METHOD OF PROCEDURE.

The latest advices from Kucheng, dated August 23rd, show that the Chinese have yielded, and that foreigners are now present at the trial of the prisoners. On Wednesday the work of investigation proper began. Up to that time the Commission had been busy with preliminaries, getting evidence from outside sources, and receiving and paying official calls. On Wednesday, at 10 a.m., the mixed court sat for the first time. There were the members of the Commission, the Prefect, the District Magistrate, the Viceroy's Deputy, and the Interpreters. By 6 p.m. they had finished four cases. Torture was applied to two of the witnesses and it speedily opened the mouth of one of them, a fortune-teller and leader of the Vegetarians. Of the four examined three are to be executed. On Thursday the court sat at 8 a.m., and it was to meet daily thereafter at that hour.

ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS.

There have been six convictions up to the present and about a hundred arrests. Arrests are made daily; the city jail could not hold those caught on Saturday alone. That the Vegetarians, or at least those who took part in the massacre, have scattered is shown by the fact that arrests have been made in Min Chiang, Ping Nang, Lo Ngwong, and Kiu Ning.

as well as in Kucheng. The home guards are established in every town and village and at each place there are a few soldiers to stimulate them to proper efforts.

ALARM IN THE VILLAGES.—HOW THE ARRESTS ARE MADE.

In many of the villages there is great alarm because of the way in which arrests have been made. A place known to have Vegetarians among its people is surrounded by the soldiers at night. The circle is then drawn closer and every man in the village arrested. From the assembled prisoners all those are held for whom the company will not give a guarantee that they are not Vegetarians. The houses are also carefully searched for any who may be hiding away. In the city itself there is no danger, except possibly from the soldiers, who complain that they are under fed.

THE EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE.

The people are glad that the Commissioners are present and hail them as their saviours. This is doubtless because of the exaggerated fears they entertained before the Commission's arrival. There was the terrible expectation that England would destroy every house and kill every man, woman, and child within a radius of fifty miles from the city. The people are delighted therefore at finding that the foreigners, instead of indulging in indiscriminate slaughter of the innocent and guilty alike, are investigating the matter thoroughly and resolved to punish the guilty only. Some of the very best Chinese, however, feel that an exception ought to be made in the cases of Hwasang. That village, they say, ought to be exterminated. There can be no doubt but that the presence of the Commission and its methods are having an excellent effect, and it is equally certain that the whole district is being made to feel that a crime demanding terrible punishment has been committed. There are very few people in Kucheng who have not cause to bitterly regret that awful murder. The presence and the methods of the soldiers most of these will have good cause long to remember, and the longer they remember them the better.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

From a Chinese friend who arrived here from Kucheng last night I learned some additional details concerning the arrival of the Commission at Kucheng. They entered the city by the south gate, something no Chinese official had ever done, all Chinese officials entering by the east gate. This made a profound impression on the people and alarmed them because, according to Chinese geomancy, the south is connected with the element of fire. They looked therefore for some terrible calamity in the near future. Unfortunately that very night, about 1 o'clock, a fire broke out near the East Gate. The people were terrified, for they thought the work of destruction had begun. An official went about the city quieting them, saying the foreigners had nothing to do with it, but that it was purely an accident. Another official went up the hill to "comfort," as my informant put it, the foreigners who were watching the fire, and as he approached them his attendants cried out, "It's the officer," "It's the officer!" The good man thought that the foreigners would be as badly frightened as the people. Happily it all passed off with no more harm than the fire itself caused.

When the labours of the Commission will be over it is impossible to say, but probably not for three or four weeks.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED.

It cannot but be a matter of great satisfaction to all foreigners to see how firmly both the American and British Consuls have maintained their rights, and that they have been supported in doing so by their Ministers. Let us hope that this strength at Peking is the beginning of a new era in which our guardians at the capital will be more alive to our interests. The problem of the future is not an easy one to solve. The punishment of the murderers and promises of amendment, on the part of the Chinese Government, ought not to satisfy England and the United States at this time. Some plan should be adopted by which the high provincial authorities will be held directly responsible for riots and massacres.

ANOTHER EX-VICEROY TO BLAME.

There can be no doubt but that a large part of the blame for the slaughter at Hwasang rests

upon the shoulders of the late Viceroy Tang, now the Viceroy of Canton. If he had moved energetically to put down the Vegetarian movement in the beginning it would never have taken place. But he played with it, or rather took no real notice of it at all, and so it grew before his eyes to formidable proportions. Nor did the present Viceroy Pieng ever make a strong effort to put it down. The District Magistrate of Kucheng will probably be degraded. But what could he have done? With thousands of Vegetarians to oppose him, and with a cowardly people upon whom he could not rely for support, what could he do with the handful of soldiers sent him at the last moment? He is not the man to punish. His superiors, the high officials at Foochow, are the men who should be punished, and that severely. Direct responsibility of the high provincial authorities should therefore be insisted on. Again, whatever settlement is made should be made promptly. Time should not be given for another outbreak by such methods as have disgraced the proceedings in the Szechuen case. The effect of even the most just punishment is weakened by delay.

THE ENERGY OF CONSUL MANSFIELD.

It is a pleasure to add the following extracts from a friend's letter of Aug. 22nd and 23rd concerning the British Consul. He says:—"Since we came to Kucheng no one could be more in earnest or could more firmly demand careful investigation."

"Since our start from Foochow up to the present moment Mr. Mansfield has in everything shown the greatest interest, industry, and firmness in the investigation of the massacre. He has moreover exercised good judgment and discretion in handling the cases."—*Mercury* correspondent.

THE BRITISH MINISTER AND THE TSUNGLI YAMEN.

We are glad to learn that Sir Nicholas O'Connor has taken a very serious view of the treacherous conduct of the Chinese officials in Fuhkien in insulting the English and American Consuls and holding them up to ridicule and contumely in the eyes of the Chinese. When the news of the deadlock reached Peking the British Minister proceeded to the yamen and a scene of storm bordering on violence ensued. The Chinese officials were completely taken aback by the unexpected turn of affairs and the threatening attitude of a Minister upon whose complacency they had apparently counted. The result of the interview was the despatch of urgent telegrams to the Foochow authorities, ordering them to remove the obstructions to the sitting of the Commission. It is now reported that the Tsungli Yamen are so terrified at the menacing attitude of Sir Nicholas O'Connor that they have wired to the Chinese Minister in London to use his influence to get the British Minister recalled.—*China Gazette*.

LI HUNG-CHANG.

Shanghai, 30th August.

His Excellency Li Hung-chang has been ordered to Peking from Tientsin, and an imperial decree was issued yesterday, relieving him of the Viceroyalty of Chihli and the Imperial Commissionership of the Peiyang, and ordering him to do duty at Peking as Manager of the Imperial Chancery, or Prime Minister of China. H.E. Wang Wen-shao, acting Viceroy of Chihli, formerly Viceroy of the Yun-Kwei provinces, has been confirmed in Li's former posts at Tientsin. It is stated that H.E. Li, being comfortably off, is anxious to retire, like his elder brother Li Han-chang, into private life, but the Throne cannot dispense with his services.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Considerable speculation is going on in the Settlement, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, as to the position of the late Viceroy Li Hung-chang. A few are sure that he has gained in power; but some, who should be in the know, are equally positive that Li Hung-chang's day is over, and that he has been shelved. There is even a whisper that his late suspected antagonism

to all things English has not helped him. If this is true, it is almost a pity, as undoubtedly Li stands out amongst his compeers for his ability and energy. But England is, after all, a hard rock to buck-up against.

THE OPENING OF HUNAN.

THREE PORTS TO BE PROBABLY OPENED.

We are in receipt of telegraphic advice that the French gunboat *Lutin* is expected back in Hankow in a day or two, after her successful mission to the Tungting Lake, the waters of which have thus for the first time been ploughed by a foreign man-of-war. She will be at Shanghai in eight or nine days. Her captain and officers went ashore and inspected the facilities for trade at Changteh-fu and Yachow-fu, but there appears to have been insufficient water for the gunboat to go up to Changsha, the provincial capital, just now. The visitors were received with great civility, and up to latest advices there was no demonstration such as would have justified the enforcement of the very emphatic orders which the gallant commander of the *Lutin* had received. It was said that she would assuredly be attacked by the fanatical Hunanese, and her commander had instructions in such an event to open fire upon any assailants without mercy. This fact the Chinese were made aware of, and hence, no doubt, their pleasant demeanour. Doubtless the recent expedition of three big French cruisers up the river also prepared the way for the little *Lutin*, and convinced the truculent Chang Chih-tung and his friends further up that there was a very formidable force behind the French gunboat. It is almost settled that three ports—Changsha, Chengteh, and Yachow—shall be opened to foreign trade. It is believed that the British gunboat *Firebrand*, which left Hankow some days after we announced the object of the *Lutin's* mission, has gone into the Tungting Lake to have a friendly eye upon the Frenchman's doings, but we fear she will have been too late to see very much. Still we are glad to think that the hint has been taken, and we should welcome the joint opening of the province by the two Powers who have, either together or singly, hitherto opened all the rest of China to the world's commerce and intercourse.—*China Gazette*.

THE CHENG TU RIOTS.

EXECUTIONS.

Telegraphic news from an authoritative native source at Chengtu is to the effect that H.E. Lu Chuan-lin, the Viceroy of Szechuen, has summarily executed four of the alleged ringleaders in the recent riots at Chengtu. The rowdy element, trusting in numbers, two-thirds of them being armed with pistols or guns, tried to get up a public demonstration amongst the Chengtu population against the extreme measures inaugurated by the new Viceroy, and they succeeded in terrorising some of the shop people into closing their doors and going on strike for three days. Rumours were also disseminated warning the Viceroy that if he did not release the forty odd men who had been arrested an attempt would be made by the mob to break open the prisons. The Viceroy, however, has replied to these threats by ordering more arrests and posting proclamations advising the mob to disperse within a certain period on pain of wholesale executions. Another despatch from a private source reports that some of the mob leaders made no hesitation in declaring that as they had the official consent of the highest man in the province to do what had been done, it was a shame that they should be made to suffer for an act of obedience.—*N. C. Daily News*.

It has been decided by the Sapporo Sugar Refining Company, says the *Hyogo News*, to remove their works to Tokyo, and to enlarge their scale of operations. The engineer of the company is to visit Hongkong for investigation.

SETTLEMENT OF THE FRENCH CLAIMS IN SZECHUEN.

THE EX-VICEBOY TO PAY THE BILL.

SEVERAL OFFICIALS TO BE DEGRADED.

It will be welcome news to all foreigners in China to learn that there is one European Power which deals with China gently but firmly, and is insisting wisely upon speedy reparation for the series of outrages which set Szechuen ablaze a couple of months ago. We learn that the work of the French Commission at Chengtu is almost over, and the main terms of the settlement for the outrages have been practically agreed upon. Bishop Dunand, who holds the full delegated powers of the French Minister, M. Gerard, has carried every point in his deliberations with the Chinese Commissioners, and the French Minister, who receives his telegraphic reports daily, has obliged the Central Government to adopt all the findings of his distinguished deputy. The Bishop is installed in the yamen of the Provincial Treasurer at Chengtu, and is treated with the fullest honour and respect by the Chinese officials and people. The infamous ex-Viceroy, Liu Ping-chang, resides a few yards off in Chengtu since his ignominious return from Loohou. When he was so abruptly ordered back, without escort, pomp, or the usual trappings of a high Chinese dignitary, his rage is described as something terrible. All the people in Szechuen are delighted at his degradation on account of his evil reputation while in power, and they are delighted to find that the chief burden of the settlement will fall upon him without his having the means to extort a penny back, which he would have done had he not been out of office. The terms of the settlement, so far as they have been communicated to us, are:—

The further degradation of the ex-Viceroy Liu Ping-chang.

The degradation and dismissal of his Secretary, who was promoted to the office of Taotai in a neighbouring city after the riots. (He has already been removed from his office).

The degradation and dismissal of the two Prefects, who stirred up the riots by giving open credence to the slanders against foreigners.

The full reinstatement of the French missionaries and the public recognition of their status by the Szechuen officials.

The rebuilding of all the missions, hospitals, schools, etc., belonging to the French (on a larger scale than before), at the expense of the Chinese officials.

The payment of compensation of between Tls. 700,000 and Tls. 800,000 by the ex-Viceroy, Liu Ping-chang, out of his own private hoard.

The minor details have not been all arranged yet, but we expect to be in possession of the full particulars before the end of the month.

All the French missionaries are in Chengtu and the other stations, and pending the rebuilding of their premises residences have been found for them by the officials.—*China Gazette*.

SERIOUS ANTI-CHRISTIAN RISING AT HOK CHIONG.

Foochow, 31st August.

A rumour current on Thursday was confirmed by later news received yesterday about a rising against the native Christians in the Hok Chiong district. The leading gentry assisted by the yamen underlings had commenced an attack on the Christian Chinese and up to the 28th inst. eight houses had been destroyed after plundering them of everything that could be carried away. The cattle also of the Christians had been taken away by the plunderers. The women and children escaped, but some of the men had been wounded, and the last reports say that one of the wounded was not expected to live. The Magistrate was appealed to five times, but refused to do anything. He then issued a proclamation which was really nothing else than a justification of this attack on the Christians. He had issued one on the 21st inst. re the Kucheng Massacre. In this he made some classical allusions which pointed to Christianity as a false and dangerous system, and covert

hints were given as to how its faultiness should be dealt with. This was the interpretation the people put on his allusions and they openly declared their intention of obeying what they considered the private hints of the mandarins. The following day the work of destruction commenced, chiefly carried on by leaders belonging to the Magistrates' yamen. The work of destruction continued until Monday, the 26th, and when the messenger left with the news there were meetings of the gentry and headman of the yamen going on for the purpose of forming plans for the destruction of the mission house and church, and for the extermination of all the Christians. The ostensible pretext for the attack was that the Christians refused to subscribe towards the support of the idolatrous processions and ceremonies. The Magistrate in the midst of the excitement issued another proclamation denouncing the Christians for not contributing towards these processions, which of course encouraged the people to make the attack. Pending further news it is very much feared that there will be a general destruction of life and property. If the District Magistrate could not be trusted to issue a proper proclamation, the Viceroy ought to have had it drawn up in his own office; they are both responsible. The issuing of that double-meaning proclamation by the Magistrate on the 21st instant was a deliberate piece of mischief; his intention is perfectly plain, and our Consuls ought to see that he is made to answer for it. We understand that a copy of this proclamation was sent in to the Viceroy by H.B.M. Consul, but it is possible that he did not receive it in time to prevent the trouble. There are five thousand Christians belonging to the Church of England alone, and probably three thousand or more in connection with the American Methodist Mission.—*Echo*.

ATTACK ON A FOREIGN RAILWAY OFFICIAL AT SHAN-HAI-KUAN.

About 7 a.m., on the 29th August, a Hunan soldier entered the engine shed and the watchman ordered him to go out; this he refused to do, and was ejected by the shed hands from the yard. Other soldiers, some twenty in number, then attacked the yard, throwing stones from the low gates. At this moment Traffic Inspector Moore and Driver Inspector Terris came in at the other end of the yard and rushed forward to prevent the gates being forced. The soldiers, after throwing more stones, then retreated and Mr. Moore then returned through the yard and went on the departure platform to start the train to Tientsin. Here, the soldiers, more than 200 in number, on seeing him alone, shouted *Tah! Tah!* and attacked him with carrying poles, knocked his sun helmet off, and gave him several blows. His face being covered with blood he could only manage to run into one of the station rooms, and but for the help of a station policeman, who was also injured, he would have certainly been killed. Mr. Terris saw the affair from the coal stage, some sixty yards off, but could render no help, as there was a dense crowd on the platform, with a wall between.

Inspector Moore, in the course of his duty, has had repeatedly to use force in ejecting from the trains all kinds of rowdy soldiers—and even officials—of the camp. It is thought not unlikely that he has been a marked man and that the soldiers got the "cue" from someone in authority to seize a favourable opportunity to attack him.

The Chinese, other than the soldiers, will be delighted if this case is severely dealt with, because they are all in constant fear of the troops, and can get no redress.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

The Viceroy Chang has, the *N. C. Daily News* says, sent by special couriers, travelling 400 li a day, copies of the recent Imperial decree commanding extra protection to foreigners to every one of the prefects and department and district magistrates within his special jurisdiction of Kiangsu province to post in the various cities and has also sent instructions to his lieutenants the Governors of Kiangsi and Anhui to do the same in their territories.

HONGKONG.

Telegraphic information was received this week that Mr. A. G. Wise had been appointed Puisne Judge. The appointment will cause much satisfaction not only to the legal fraternity but to the public generally. There have been one or two interesting cases in the Supreme Court, and at the Magistracy the enquiry re the extraordinary death at Capsuimoon was closed. The police arrested seven coolies for carrying letters from Macao to Hongkong, but they were all discharged, as the practice is one of long standing in the colony and the Postmaster-General desired to issue a warning to the Chinese before putting the law into operation. The fourth Gymkhana, which was held on Saturday, afforded considerable pleasure to a large number of people.

H.M.S. *Pique* left on Tuesday for Takow.

There were 1,907 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 140 were Europeans.

The stamp revenue last month amounted to \$19,572, being an increase of \$6,309 on the amount collected in the corresponding month last year.

We hear that the reduction in the Bank rate of interest on loans from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent. has been practically decided upon and will probably come into effect next month.

A few days ago a Chinaman was taken to the Government Civil Hospital. He had been fishing with dynamite and was unfortunate enough to get both his arms blown off with a charge.

The P. & O. steamer *Verona*, which arrived from Japan on Tuesday, experienced a heavy typhoon after leaving Nagasaki. She lost two of her boats and the chief officer met with rather a severe accident.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram from the Mines, being the result of August crushing:—"Mill ran 21 days crushing 800 tons yielding 405 ounces of gold."

A contemporary says Lieutenant-Colonel Barrow, Commandant of the Hongkong Regiment, probably succeeds Colonel Shakespear as Assistant Adjutant-General at Rawalpindi in October, thus rendering the Hongkong command vacant.

It is reported that the Directors of the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co., Limited, are inclined to waive their opposition to the proposed return of capital to shareholders to the extent of \$5 per share, and the return is now regarded as certain to be carried out.

A sporadic case of plague was notified by the Acting Colonial Surgeon as having occurred on Saturday evening in an opium divan at No. 4, Possession Street. The patient, a man 34 years of age, was transferred to the Kennedytown Hospital and died at 9.30 p.m. the following day.

The following paragraph appears in some of the home papers:—"The Right Rev. Dr. Burdon has resigned the Bishopric of Victoria, Hongkong, which he has held for twenty-one years. Dr. Burdon went out to China as a missionary as far back as the year 1852." On enquiry of Bishop Burdon we learn that the statement is not correct.

At 11.30 on Friday night an alarm of fire was raised in the Queen's Road West. Smoke was seen issuing from a window on the second floor of a Chinese shop, but owing to the prompt action of the inmates, the fire was subdued without the assistance of the Brigade. This was the second alarm of the day, the previous one having been given at 3.40 a.m., when a small fire broke out in the servants' quarters of Messrs. Wieler & Co., Praya Central, which, however, was put out without the help of the Brigade.

From the *Chung Ngai San Po* we learn that a destructive fire occurred at Wuchow, in Kwangsi, on the 3rd inst. It broke out about 9 a.m. and before it was subdued several hundred houses were destroyed and all the telegraph poles were scorched. The loss of life is unknown. As soon as the alarm was given, the people set to work with their water-pumps, but the fire broke out in several places at once and was not got under until 9 p.m. in the evening, having raged for twelve hours. It is said that the fire was started by robbers with the intention of committing robberies in the general confusion.

On Tuesday morning the dead body of a European was found on the road near the Wongneichong Gap. He had shot himself in the left breast, and although no weapon was found near him several cartridges were found in his pocket, and it is supposed that the revolver was picked up and taken away by Chinese. In the dead man's pocket was found a card bearing the name Hermann Michael, and another one bore the name of the Praya East Hotel. The inquest was held on Friday at the Magistracy before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse. The deceased was formerly in the German navy, and on the 28th August he arrived in Hongkong as a passenger by the steamer *Oldenberg*. He wished to get employment as a clerk, and lived at the Western Hotel. On the 31st ult. he went out and the next that was heard of him was that he had shot himself with a revolver. The following letter was found in one of his pockets:—"My dear parents, sisters, and friends. You must not be angry with me for taking this step. Give my compliments to my intended.—Your loving son, Hermann Michael." The verdict was "Death from hemorrhage caused by a bullet wound self inflicted."

A court-martial was held on Monday on board the *Victor Emanuel* to investigate two charges of neglect of duty brought against Staff Paymaster William James Hubbard, of the *Tamar*. The Court consisted of Captain Bigge (President), Commander Tunnard, Lieutenant-Commander Stewart, Lieutenant Barker, and Lieutenant Graham. The first charge was that prisoner failed to have his accounts brought up to date, and the second was for failing to hand his books to Captain Blaxland at the proper time. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and said that his offences were of omission rather than of commission, and he had no object whatever in retaining the accounts, as was proved by the fact that a balance in his favour was found when the books were examined. He also trusted that the Court would take his many good testimonials into its favourable consideration. The prisoner, who had been in the service since 1863, was convicted on five charges of neglect of duty in 1890 and was deprived of six months' seniority and dismissed his ship; and in 1894 he was convicted of a similar offence and lost one year's seniority in addition to being severely reprimanded. Yesterday the Court ordered the prisoner to be deprived of two years' seniority and to be dismissed his ship.

On Monday afternoon a lot of Crown land at the corner of Connaught and Murray Roads was put up to auction. Connaught Road, it may be remarked for the benefit of those who have not noticed the change in names, is the old Praya in front of the Cricket Ground, and the lot sold yesterday, at the eastern end of the reclamation, extends from that road to the new Praya. The boundary measurements are 100 feet by 160 feet, the contents in square feet being 16,000. The upset price was \$104,000, being at the rate of \$6.50 per foot. The lot was put up at the request of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, who were represented at the sale by Mr. Dowler, and it was knocked down to them at an advance of \$25, theirs being the only bid. The ground on which the new Club is being erected, and which is set apart from the lot sold yesterday by another lot, was sold for \$3 a foot. The difference in price was not so much due to a general advance in prices as to the fact that the Club in land value sold on the reclamation and to lot was the first competition for it, but it also indicates that the reclamation ground is coming into favour. At the sale several people were present as interested spectators and it was remarked that the lot was a very cheap one and that no other lot in that locality will be obtainable at the same rate. We understand that plans for four large hotels to be erected on the reclamation to the west of the new Club, on privately owned ground, have already been prepared and that work is to be commenced on the buildings almost immediately. At the sale yesterday Mr. C. C. Malsch acted as auctioneer on behalf of the Government, and with reference to one of the published conditions, that the purchaser should erect a building "with stone and lime-mortar walls," he was authorised by the Director of Public Works to state that a brick and stone building would be allowed.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st August, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average amount.	Specie in reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China...	1,688,427	1,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.	5,379,075	2,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited	353,360	203,000
Total	7,420,862	3,703,000

We are pleased to hear that Mr. A. G. Wise has been confirmed in the appointment of Puisne Judge, in which he is now acting. As the news, we understand, has come by telegraph and through private channels, it may be some little time before the appointment is officially announced, and in the meantime Mr. Wise's official status will remain that of Acting Puisne Judge. Since the late Sir James Russell was made Chief Justice we question if any appointment has been made in the colony which has given more widespread satisfaction than that of Mr. Wise to the Puisne Judgeship will give. Mr. Wise is endowed with an unusual fund of common sense and is an exceptionally able lawyer. Even the absurd Licensing of Private Vehicles Ordinance, passed while he was Acting Attorney-General, has not shaken public confidence in his usually sound judgment. But it is chiefly as a Magistrate and Judge that Mr. Wise has made his reputation. Every man has his *metier* and possibly Mr. Wise might have proved less successful as a maker of the laws than as an administrator of them. At all events, the colony may congratulate itself on having got a very capable Judge. With Sir Fielding Clarke and Mr. Justice Wise we have as strong a bench as we had in the times of Sir George Phillippo and Mr. Justice Russell (afterwards Sir James Russell).

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

22nd August.

The closing incident of the late war was witnessed on Monday, 19th August, in the debarkation at Hsin Cheng, near Tientsin, of nearly one thousand prisoners of war. The Japanese seem to have treated their unwilling guests remarkably well. The private soldiers and sailors were wholly reloaded at their enemies' expense and were each presented with five yen to meet current expenses. The wounded have been restored by Japanese surgical skill, and not a few of the maimed have been supplied with wooden legs, &c. These unfortunates were under a constant fire of good natured badinage from their more lucky comrades. The men were in high spirits, though the officers were somewhat anxious as to their subsequent treatment by their own authorities. The sailors will at present shift for themselves; the soldiers are ordered to rejoin their various camps. The officers' conduct will in all cases be investigated before they are restored to their old rank. A goodly number of the junior naval officers are under orders to take up residence at the Tientsin Naval College, where free quarters and a microscopic monthly allowance will be granted to them until the Government can again find them employment. This policy proves that the Chinese look forward to another navy in the near future.

On the same day the flag-end of the British Legation guard arrived in Tientsin. Sir Nicholas O'Connor has for some time wished its withdrawal and proposed to accompany the marines down; the Kucheng tragedy, however, kept him in Peking, after all arrangements had been made to leave.

The Kucheng atrocity created a profound sensation up here, and ever since its occurrence has been the chief subject of discussion both in foreign and native circles. Curiously enough the Chinese have so far informed themselves of foreign views as to recognize at once that the heinousness of the crime was intensified by the fact that most of its victims were women. The poison is slowly spreading; ten years ago among themselves they would have made this fact the

basis of extenuating the villainy down to guiltlessness. At any rate officials up here affect to believe that the British Government will certainly proceed to vigorous action, as women and children were chiefly concerned.

Our Indignant Meeting was keenly watched and discussed in native circles, and not a little surprise was expressed that we got our telegrams through so quickly. It is a curious fact that none of the speakers referred to the most obvious method of arousing the British Government to prompt action, viz., through the medium of Exeter Hall. Let the aggregate of all the religious and philanthropic societies which are summed up in these two words speak with no uncertain sound and there will be found no government in England or America which will dare to resist them. Their vote and voice are usually for peaceful measures: if they are transferred to swell the number of the chronic advocates of a spirited policy, then we shall see the latter for a certainty.

This question has brought to the local front the Rev. Jonathan Lees. Mr. Lees took infinite pains during and after the Tientsin Massacre of 1870 to bring the guilty to punishment. His speech on this occasion was a masterly appeal to fair judgment and justice and had none of the rant and vengeful strophes into which just indignation hurried some of our orators.

Asiatic cholera is still horribly in evidence, but up to date has not come into the Concessions. We, however, do not seem even in the native city to be in so ill a plight as our neighbours in Peking and Chefoo.

One zealous Consul has "expressed" his views, declaring Tientsin to be an infected port, and has summoned our merchants to comply with the exacting quarantine regulations of his government. This has aroused some handsome indignation and very plain speech.

Li is again said to be about to start for Peking (Aug. 31st); but personally I doubt it. Chinese etiquette requires him to have an audience with the Emperor after having negotiated the Shimonoseki Treaty. Fatigue and indisposition have so far been sufficient reasons for postponing the interview which both wish to avoid. But now that great things are going on in Peking Li is becoming impatient that he is not in evidence: the idea gains ground that he will return to power. All the major and minor officials are paying assiduous court both to him and Wang Wen-shou, an unmistakable sign of native opinion. The two Viceroys are the negotiators of the supplementary Treaty with Japan. The Chinese want the business to be done here, but Mr. Hiyashi is unwilling to leave the capital; hence Li's prospective visit. There is no doubt his presence will precipitate the crises of faction strife and palace intrigue. For months these have reduced the Central Government to impotence.

The Tartar U, the new Minister to Tokyo, is about to leave for his post. His suite includes a goodly number of those who accompanied Li Chin Fong.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, the *N. C. Daily News* says, has consented to providing Nanking with waterworks after the foreign method, and several deputies have already received orders from him to come to Shanghai to study the matter on the spot and to engage some foreign firm to undertake the work. The scheme has been hailed with delight by the whole population of Nanking, except, of course, the water carriers. It is to be a commercial undertaking and residents of Nanking have been asked to subscribe for the shares.

It is reported in some of the native papers at Shanghai that the Viceroy and Generalissimo Liu K'un-yi has lately sent up to the Throne a memorial asking to be allowed to retire altogether from public life, giving as a reason the serious character of his present maladies. By the retention of Li Hung-chang, Chief of the Anhui or Huai political party, at Peking, and the retirement of Liu K'un-yi, the Chief of the Hunan or Ts'u party, the literary faction of which Chang Chih-tung is the acknowledged head, will, the *N. C. Daily News* says, gain a decided superiority over its two older rivals in the politics of this Empire.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 10th September.—Macao Congous.—The fortnight's settlements are reported at 2,000 boxes at Tls. 10½/15½ per picul, showing rather easier rates all round. In spite of the low prices ruling there is but little demand, and the arrivals of "leaf" from the country are still on a very limited scale. Scented Capers.—There has been a moderate but steady demand, and settlements for the fortnight amount to 23,000 boxes, at Tls. 10-19½, making 20,000 boxes up to date, against 158,000 boxes up to the same time last year. The demand has run principally on medium kinds, of which there are now but few on offer. Prices have hardened considerably, and at the close show a decided advance of Tl. 1 per picul on rates current a fortnight ago. Fine Teas, without marking any quotable change, have ruled weak and offer excellent value. At present the total export for the season promises to be 5½ millions, but as so much depends on the prices obtainable on this market, it is impossible to say whether this estimate will be exceeded.

SHANGHAI, 6th September.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s circular).—London deliveries of China Congou for August were 2,800,000 lbs., against 3,000,000 lbs. for corresponding month in the previous year, and stocks on 31st ulto. were 19,200,000 lbs., against 17,500,000 lbs. on same date in 1894. Black Tea.—There has been rather more disposition to sell on the part of Tea-men, but the concessions made by them have not been material. In many instances the sales have been of Teas which had been held for over market values, and to effect sales the owners accepted market rates. The quotation for whole-leaf Tea has been lowered to Tls. 11.60, but at this price only one chop was settled. Hohows show the greatest decline, some purchases showing Tls. 1 to 2 better value than earlier transactions.

The following settlements are reported:—
Ningchow 1,553 ½-chts. at Tls. 15 to 36 a picul.
Keemun ... 442 " " 17½ to 21 "
Hohow ... 2,016 " " 13½ to 15 "
Kutoan ... 295 " " 17 to " "
Wenchow ... 684 " " 15 to 16 "
Oonam ... 5,213 " " 11.6 to 13½ "
Oopack ... 422 " " 12½ to 13 "

Total 10,625 ½-chests.

Stock.—23,115 half-chests, against 30,157 half-chests at same date last year.

Green Tea.—Pingsueys have attracted attention, partly on account of the quality of many recent arrivals being preferable to much of the stuff which was brought to market towards the end of July. Tea-men have been comparatively easy to deal with, and in most cases rather more than 10 per cent. decline from the highest point has been obtained by buyers. Local Packed.—A moderate business has been done, but the majority of the parcels on offer are unattractive and of very uncertain value. Country Teas.—The market for these descriptions has been more than usually irregular. The brokers have found it somewhat difficult to elicit offers from unwilling buyers and occasional chops of extra good value have been forced off; on the whole, however, Tienkai and Moyunes cannot be quoted at lower than 10 per cent. under opening rates, and most Tea-men refuse to sell at a greater reduction. Some of the "classic" chops have been sought after at full rates. Most native middlemen are losing heavily, and it is said that orders have been sent into the country to reduce the size of the third packs.

Settlements reported since 23rd ult:—

	½-chts.	a picul.
Pingsuey	21,261 at Tls. 17.00 to 32.25	
Moyune	9,624 " 20.00 to 36.00	
Tienkai	5,434 " 17.50 to 50.00	
Fychow	1,009 " 17.00 to 18.00	
Local Packed	2,205 " 19.00 to 20.00	

Total.....39,533

Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—

Pingsuey	126,522 ½-chts. against 109,546 ½-chts.
Moyune	36,671 " 43,277 "
Tienkai	25,918 " 25,226 "
Fychow	10,398 " 9,973 "
Local Packed	13,139 " 9,622 "

Total212,648

197,649

Total arrivals to date are:—261,019 ½-chests against 281,951 ½-chests to same date last year.

SILK.

CANTON, 10th September.—The fifth crop hatchings have progressed very favourably and arrivals will commence in about a week from

date. A full yield is looked for. Tsatlees and Re-reels.—Are unchanged but steady at subjoined quotations. American buyers offer \$535 for Re-reels No. 1 Grant-reel with no business resulting. Filatures.—Continued in fairly active demand during the earlier part of the fortnight, when Cheung Kee 9/11 sold at \$720 and Min King Lun 13/15 at \$700. Latterly, buyers have held off from these prices, but there is no doubt that if holders were to give way somewhat, an active business would ensue. America has remained quiet. A few purchases are reported recently at \$650/655 for best 2nd class 14/16 (Min Wo Cheung, Koun King, etc.) and \$590/560/540 for best 3rd class 14/16, 14/18, 16/20. Waste.—Is steady but the enquiry is very moderate. Extra Steam alone has been in good demand for the Continent. Stocks.—Tsatlee 1,200 bales.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—Prices this week are higher and holders are firm. Quotations for Formosa are \$86.50 to \$87.00. During the past week sales have been 70 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—Owing to large stocks on hand the market is weaker. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.23 to 7.25	per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.82 to 6.85	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.72 to 4.75	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.58 to 4.61	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.10 to 7.13	"
do. " 2, White...	6.73 to 6.78	"
do. " 1, Brown...	4.36 to 4.40	"
Swatow, No. 2, Brown...	4.21 to 4.25	"
Foochow Sugar Candy...	10.25 to 10.40	"
Shekloong " "	8.90 to 8.93	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The British bark *Belmont*, Hongkong to New York, 29th August, took:—10,335 rolls Matting, 453 packages Rattanware, 200 cases Saigon Cassia, 200 cases Cassia Ligna, 50 cases Paper, and 15 cases Blackwoodware. From Shanghai:—2,244 bales Sheep's Wool, 1,267 bales Strawbraid, and 92 packages Merchandise.

The steamer *Benalder*, Hongkong to London, 31st August, took:—1 case Earthenware, 4 packages Lychees, 10 casks Soy, 200 cases Preserves, 250 cases Ginger, 260 casks Ginger, and 2,336 boxes Tea (12,600 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe, 36,456 lbs. Scented Capers).

The steamer *Daus*, Hongkong to Continent, 4th September, took:—574 bales Raw Silk, 19 cases Silk Piece Goods, 2 cases Cartoons, 3 cases Ilang Ilang, 799 packages Tea, and 1 case China Ink.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—Bengal.—Owing to the firmness of holders there has been an advance in prices, New Patna closing at \$705, Old Patna at \$700, New Benares at \$692½, and Old Benares at \$665.

Malwa.—A steady business has passed in this drug during the interval at slightly improved rates. The following are the current figures:—
New\$700 with allowance of 0 to 3½ cts.
Old (2 years).....\$730 " 1 to 2 "
Older\$750 " 0 to 2½ "

Persian.—Oily descriptions have not been enquired for during the past week, whilst Paper-wrapped of good quality has been in good demand and has improved in value. The market closes at \$670 to \$710 for Oily and \$750 to \$855 for Paper-wrapped, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,750 chests.
Old Patna	53 "
New Benares	318 "
Old Benares	228 "
Malwa	750 "
Persian	830 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.						
Sept. 4	\$ 697½	700	690	692½	700	730/750
Sept. 5	695	700	690	692½	700	730/750
Sept. 6	695	700	690	692½	700	730/750
Sept. 7	698½	700	690	692½	700	730/750
Sept. 8	701½	700	690	692½	700	730/750
Sept. 9	697½	700	690	692½	700	730/750
Sept. 10	700	700	690	692½	700	730/750
Sept. 11	705	700	692½	665	700	730/750

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—There is nothing doing in Indian staples, which are being held for higher prices. Chinese New Season's Cotton seems to be finer than last year and a large crop is expected. Prices here are becoming easier. Stocks: 735 bales Bengal and about 300 bales of China New Cotton.

Bombay	.....\$13.60 to 16.50	per picul.
Kurrachee	.....13.00 to 16.50	"
Bengal, Rangoon, and	13.00 to 17.50	"
Dacca,	.....18.00 to 18.75	"
Shanghai and Japanese..	18.00 to 18.75	"
Tungchow and Ningpo..	18.00 to 18.75	"
Madras.....	16.00 to 18.00	"

Sales: 88 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca 350 bales Shanghai and Japanese, Tungchow and Ningpo.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—There has been less demand during the past week and the market is weaker. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	.....\$2.06 to 2.09	per picul.
" Round, good quality	.....2.37 to 2.40	"
" Long	.....2.51 to 2.53	"
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	.....2.07 to 2.10	"
" Garden, " No. 1	.....2.48 to 2.51	"
Siam White.....	2.97 to 3.10	"
" Fine Cargo	.....3.19 to 3.22	"

COALS.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—The market continues quiet. Small sales of Japanese reported at low prices ex godown. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	.....\$12.00 to 13.00	ex ship, sellers.
Australian	.....7.50	ex ship, nominal.
Mike Lump...	6.50 to	ex ship, nominal.
Mike Small...	5.50 to	ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	.....4.50 to 5.75	ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Lump...	6.50 to 7.00	ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Small...	4.00 to 4.50	ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—75 bales No. 8 at \$64.25 to \$64.50 910 bales No. 10 at \$66 to \$72, 295 bales No. 12 at \$69 to \$74, 275 bales No. 16 at \$79.50 to \$82, 380 bales No. 20 at \$72.50 to \$86. *Grey Shirtings*.—1,400 pieces 7 lbs. Red 5-men at \$1.90, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$2.75, 4,200 pieces Blue Joss at \$2.75, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Lion and Flag at \$2.37½, 1,200 pieces Blue Fish at \$2.37½, 2,100 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$1.78, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.37½, 753 pieces Mex. Shoemaker at \$2.02½, 2,000 pieces Palace at \$3.10, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss at \$2.75, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Stag Chop at \$3.70, 560 pieces Flower Vase at \$3.72½, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Snake and Elephant at \$2.60, 750 pieces 10 lbst Palm Chop at \$3.75, 200 pieces Blue Hunter at \$2.30. *White Shirtings*.—500 pieces Flower Basket at \$2.55, 500 pieces Black Peach at \$2.05, 2,000 pieces Soldier at \$2.50, 450 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.35, 450 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.65, 600 pieces, E.F. at \$6.55, 1,500 pieces No. 600 at \$4.05, 3,500 pieces S.Q. at \$4.05, 2,500 pieces S.S. at \$4.30, 1,000 pieces Flower Chop at \$4.60, 750 pieces No. 1,000 Steamer at \$3.35, 1,000 pieces No. 600 Red Dragon at \$2.77½, 1,000 pieces No. 1 at \$5.52½, 500 pieces Fan Chop at \$4.90, 5,000 pieces No. 4,000 2 Fish at \$3.20, 250 pieces Spear Man at \$5.10. *T-Cloths*.—750 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.22½, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Sil. Pheasant at \$1.75, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. X.M. at \$2.25, 2,400 pieces V.V. at \$2.77½, 1,200 pieces X.X. at \$2.82½, 1,800 pieces 8 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.57½, 4,500 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.22½, 2,625 pieces Mex. Shoemaker at \$2.02½, 750 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay at \$1.60, 1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. B. Dragon B. B. at \$2.20, 840 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. Red Dragon at \$2.17½, 1,200 pieces Double Feeling Z. Z. at \$2.62½, 375 Mex. Blue Dragon at \$2.17½, 1,125 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. S. Lion No. 1 at \$1.81, 1,875 pieces Mex. S. Lion No. 2 at \$1.78, 750 pieces Sil. Dragon at \$2.10. *Long Ells*.—1,000 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.95 to \$6.90, 750 pieces 8 lbs. Purple and Green at \$6.80. *METALS*.—Tin.—100 slabs Siam at \$36.20.

SHANGHAI, 5th September.—(From Mr. Geo. W. Noel's report).—The rapid advance of the Manchester market has almost put a stop to business here, the dealers not caring to enter into further engagements for the new season, are importers anxious to sell what little cargo they have at previous prices, which is at all the natives are willing to offer. The have done remarkably well, and can

hold off for a while. The foresight displayed in buying just in the nick of time is really wonderful, the quantity settled, so far, being considerably in excess of what is usually done thus early in the year, some having bought as much as ninety per cent. of their estimated requirements. In English goods the current business has not been large, for the reason that holders are trying to gradually lessen the difference between the prices offered and the cost of replacing now, and are not showing any anxiety to sell; the auctions, however, are supplying the most pressing wants and until prices there show a much more decided turn than they have it will be difficult to raise the market appreciably. Indications are all pointing that way, and, although it may be a little slow in doing so, this market must respond to the strength displayed at all the sources of supply. The only noticeable feature during the interval has been a revival in the demand for American makes, the standard chops coming in for a share of attention, the dealers at length becoming convinced that it will be necessary for them to pay up. Further shipments have been made to Newchwang this week of a miscellaneous assortment of goods, and favourable results will no doubt continue to be realised as long as the supplies sent forward are not excessive. The Tientsin market is steady, but the dealers have not been showing much activity as yet; it is anticipated, however, that they must commence to lay in their winter requirements before long. The Ningpo trade is satisfactorily progressing, but the other markets are quiet. For Korea and Vladivostok there is considerable activity, a good autumn trade being expected.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—We have a further general rise in rates to record. The market has ruled strong and a fair amount of business has been transacted during the week under review. The reduction of Bank interest on overdrafts from 7 to 6 per cent. has had the effect of sending stock up to a 6 per cent. the Carn basis.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled very quiet with a downward tendency and we have no business beyond a few small cash sales at 184 and 183 per cent. prem. to report. Nationals and Bank of China are also neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders after sales at \$74 in the early of the week have risen without sales to \$77. North-Chinas have improved to \$205 and Straits to 22½, the latter after sales at \$22. In other Marines we have nothing to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have changed hands at \$235, but more shares can be obtained at the rate. Chinas have found buyers and are wanted at \$86. An offer sell at \$87 would probably lead to business. Market closes strong with an upward tendency.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao, after somewhat heavy sales at \$33½, \$33½, and again at \$33½, the demand being unsatisfied, the rate rose quickly to \$34, \$34½, \$35, and \$35½, with sales; markets closes firm at the latter rate. Douglas's ruled weak during the early part of the week under review and sales were effected at \$54 and \$54½; later, however, on a persistent demand setting in consequent upon an unsupported rumour of a likely return of capital to shareholders, the rate gradually hardened with small sales at \$55 and \$56 to \$59, without any sales between the two latter rates, and at time of writing shares have changed hands at \$60, the market closing firm. Indo-Chinas have been negotiated at \$47 in small lots.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continue to rule weak with reported sales at \$102 and \$101. Luzons, after sales at \$47 and \$50, are enquired for at \$51; market closes firm without sellers.

MINING.—Punjoms, on receipt of a satisfactory August crushing, have ruled much firmer with sales at \$4½, \$5, \$5½, \$5½, and \$6. Preferences have been enquired for and have advanced to \$1.50. Balmorals have also improved to \$4, after sales at \$3.25, \$3.50 and \$3.75. Raubs after a period of comparative inaction have changed hands at \$4, market closing steady. Jebebus have gone back without sales to \$3.15. Charbonnages can be obtained in very small lots at \$120.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, with the certainty of enough good paying work to keep them going for the next four months, and probably for

the next six months, have ruled very firm, and have attracted much attention. In the early part of the week the rate went back from \$115 to \$113½, and small sales were effected between these rates. Later, however, on the strength of some good jobs falling in, including the steamship *Belgie*, which has recently unfortunately got on shore some fifty miles from Yokohama, the rate gradually rose in sympathy with a persistent demand to 123 per cent. prem. A fair business was put through between 115 and 120 per cent. prem. and a small, i.e., comparatively small one, between 120 and 123. The last sales reported are at 122, at which rate market closes steady. Kowloon Wharfs have materially improved their position with sales at \$45, \$46, and \$47; market closes steady at latter rate. Wanchai Godowns are neglected, but should be deserving of attention at quotation.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Lands have more than maintained the improvement reported in our last and have found buyers at \$65 and \$66, closing steady at latter rate. Tramways are still in request at \$90 and 100 are enquired for at \$91 without finding sellers. Watsons have ruled very firm, a persistent demand at \$10½ only bringing out a very few shares. Fenwicks have found investing buyers at \$21.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	183 p. ct. pm., sellers
China & Japan, prf.	...	nominal
Do. ordinary	\$1	nominal
Do. deferred	\$1	nominal
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$3	\$25½
Foun. Shares...	\$1	\$26½
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$10
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$3, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$2, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$101
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	10 p. ct. prem.
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$8, sales & buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$21, sales
Green Island Cement...	\$50	\$10½, sales
H. Brick and Cement...	\$12½	\$7, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$110
Hongkong Electric.	\$8	\$6, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$90
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$7, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$91, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$47, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$140, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$125	123 p. ct. pm., [sellers]
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$36, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$77, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$235, sales
North-China	\$25	Tls. 205, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$22½, sales
Union	\$25	\$180, sales
Yangtze	\$50	\$103, buyers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$66, sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$12½, sales
West Point Building	\$40	\$18½
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$51, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$120, sellers
Jebebu	\$5	\$3.15, buyers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$4, sellers
Punjom	\$3½	\$6, sales
Do. (Preference).	\$1	\$1.50
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$4, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$62½
China Shippers	\$5	\$2.11.6
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$59, buyers
H., Canton and M.	\$20	\$35½, sales & buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$47, sales
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$37½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$10½, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 6th September:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Business has been done for cash, at rates steadily advancing from 180 to 185 per cent. premium. Sales were also made at 100 per cent. premium for 30th November, 31st October, and 15th October. This last is a full rate, as shares are offering at 189 for 31st October. The London rate is unchanged at 242½. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—There is a movement among

the shareholders to obtain a return of \$5 per share from the funds of the Company, not invested in steamers. Shares have been sold at \$34 with exchange 73. Indo-China S. N. shares are offering. Docks.—Shares in Boyd & Co. have been placed at Tls. 165, S. C. Farnham & Co. shares have been sold at Tls. 165 cum and Tls. 155 to Tls. 160 ex dividend. The dividend of Tls. 12 per share was paid on the 4th instant. Marine Insurance.—China Traders' Insurance shares were placed at \$75, North-China Insurance shares at Tls. 207½, Unions at \$185, and Straits at \$22. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have changed hands at \$232½. There is no change in Chinas. Mining.—Jebebu Mining and Trading shares were placed at \$3.60. Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were sold at Tls. 157½. Miscellaneous.—Hongkong Electric shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$5.85. Perak Sugar Cultivation shares changed hands, and are offering, at Tls. \$3, several hundreds of Hall & Holtz shares were placed at \$20; Hongkong Land Investment shares changed hands at \$62. J. Llewellyn & Co. shares were sold at \$25, Major Brothers shares were placed, and are wanted, at Tls. 26, Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 125 and Tls. 120 cash, and were sold for delivery on the 30th current at Tls. 123½, and Shanghai-Langkat Tobacco shares at Tls. 220 and Tls. 225 each. Loans.—Debentures of all sorts are in strong demand.

WEDNESDAY, 11th September.
CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
EXCHANGE

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.74
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.80
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	2.22
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	53½
Credits, 60 days' sight	54½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	194
Bank, on demand	194½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	194
Bank, on demand	194½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	3 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	½ % dis.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.01
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	47.40

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 11th September.—Since our last a fair number of settlements have been effected and rates all-round are firm.

From Saigon to Hongkong medium-sized steamers are wanted at 10 cents per picul.

From Bangkok to Hongkong small carriers are enquired for at 17½ cents inside and 12½ cents per picul outside the bar; regular line steamers command 20 and 15 cts.

From Nanchwang to Canton there is a good demand for early October loading at 24 cents, late October 27 cents, and November 29/30 cents per picul. Several settlements other than those reported below have been made, but as the rates have not yet transpired they will be quoted in our next list.

Japan coal freights remain weak at \$1.25 to Hongkong and \$1.70 per ton to Canton.

A large sailer has been taken to load hence for New York at about 17s. per ton of 40 cubic feet.

There are no disengaged vessels in port.

The following are the settlements:—

Engelhorn—British 4-masted barque, 2,374 tons, to New York, private terms.

Romulus—German steamer, 1,722 tons, three ports Java to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.

Fram—Norwegian steamer, 1,415 tons, hence to Java and back, \$9,600 in full.

Bengloe—British steamer, 1,959 tons, hence to Yokohama and Kobe, \$4,700 in full; thence Moji to Hongkong, \$1.25 per ton.

Foyle—British steamer, 1,331 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.25, Canton \$1.70 per ton.

Osanopaki—German steamer, 551 tons, Moji to Canton, \$1.80 per ton.
Tailee—German steamer, 828 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$1.50 per ton.
Decima—German steamer, 1,151 tons, Newchwang and Canton, three trips, 23, 26, and 29 cents per picul.
 An Indo-China steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 24 cents per picul.
Burnhills—German steamer, 997 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul.
Inverlay—British steamer, 827 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.
Benvenue—British steamer, 1,468 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.
Decima—German steamer, 1,151 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$4,600 per month.
Martha—German steamer, 1,600 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$5,600 per month.
Mathilde—German steamer, 676 tons, monthly, 6/3 months, \$4,500 per month.
Wuotan—German steamer, 1,201 tons, hence to Mauritius and back, monthly, \$5,500 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Oolong* (str.), *Manila* (str.), *Glenorchy* (str.).
 For MARSEILLES.—*Sydney* (str.).
 For BREMEN.—*Oldenburg* (str.).
 For LONDON and ANTWERP.—*Carmanthenshire* (str.).
 For VANCOUR VER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).
 For PORTLAND.—*Mount Lebanon*.
 For VICTORIA.—*Victoria* (str.).
 For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Lyndhurst*, *China* (str.).
 For NEW YORK.—*P. N. Blanchard*, *Adam W. Spies*, *Sam Skolfeld*, *Wandering Jew*, *Engelhorn*.
 For BALTIMORE.—*Fred. P. Litchfield*.
 For AUSTRALIA.—*Priam* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

September—
 ARRIVALS.
 3, Galveston, German bark, from Tientsin.
 4, Tailee, German str., from Manila.
 4, Nanking, Norw. str., from Newchwang.
 4, China, British str., from San Francisco.
 4, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 4, Melbourne, French str., from Marseilles.
 4, Aroduct, Norw. str., from Moji.
 4, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
 4, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 4, Cass, Chinese str., from Pakhoi.
 4, Ghazee, British str., from Moji.
 4, Wuotan, German str., from Singapore.
 4, Wm. Le Lacheur, Brit. bk., from Mantung.
 4, Mogul, British str., from Kobe.
 5, Dardanus, British str., from Liverpool.
 5, Foyle, British str., from Port Wallut.
 5, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 5, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
 5, Hunan, British str., from Canton.
 5, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
 5, Cassius, German str., from Saigon.
 5, Gartha, Norw. bark, from Rajang.
 6, Dordogne, French str., from Shanghai.
 6, Glenavon, British str., from Foochow.
 6, Bombay, British str., from London.
 6, Oscarshah, German str., from Bangkok.
 7, Kashing, British str., from Canton.
 7, Nanking, Norw. str., from Canton.
 7, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
 7, Cam, British str., from Liverpool.
 7, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 7, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
 7, Benlarig, British str., from London.
 7, Frigga, German str., from Hamburg.
 7, Engelhorn, British ship, from New York.
 7, Guildhall, British str., from Singapore.
 7, Khedive, British str., from Bombay.
 8, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
 8, Ask, Danish str., from Swatow.
 8, Esang, British str., from Chefoo.
 8, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.
 8, Phra C. C. Klao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
 8, Produce, Norw. str., from Canton.
 9, Moldava, British str., from Halong Bay.
 9, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 9, Lyeemooon, German str., from Shanghai.
 10, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, Conch, British str., from Batoum.
 10, Progress, German str., from Hoihow.
 10, Toonan, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
 10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 10, Idsumi Maru, Jap. transt., from Kelung.
 10, Mount Lebanon, Brit. str., from Kobe.

10, Siam, British str., from Kobe.
 10, Verona, British str., from Yokohama.
 11, Diomed, British str., from Foochow.
 11, Evandale, British str., from Tacoma.
 11, Fuping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
 11, Sabine Rickmers, German str., from Amoy.
 11, Japan, Italian bark, from Callao.

DEPARTURES.

4, Empr. of India, British str., for V'couver.
 4, Kashing, British str., for Canton.
 4, Oxus, French str., for Europe.
 4, Bonnington, British str., for Hakodate.
 4, Donar, German str., for Bangkok.
 4, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
 4, Hermann, German str., for Nicolajefski.
 4, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 4, Letimbro, Italian str., for Bombay.
 4, Nagoya Maru, Japanese str., for Kelung.
 5, Amur, British str., for Manila.
 5, Melbourne, French str., for Shanghai.
 5, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 5, Ariel, Norw. str., for Shanghai.
 5, Cass, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 5, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 5, Gisela, Austrian str., for Trieste.
 5, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Nanking, Norw. str., for Canton.
 5, Strathfillan, British str., for S'pore.
 5, Thales, British str., for Tainanfoo.
 5, No. 558, Ger. torpedo-boat, for Shanghai.
 5, No. 559, Ger. torpedo-boat, for Shanghai.
 6, Devawongse, British str., for Bangkok.
 6, Kong Beng, British str., for Swatow.
 6, Luebeck, British str., for Kobe.
 6, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
 7, Geo. S. Homer, Amr. ship, for New York.
 7, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
 7, Rio, German str., for Saigon.
 7, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 7, Kashing, British str., for Shanghai.
 7, Machew, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Dardanus, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Dordogne, French str., for Saigon.
 8, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 8, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Inverlay, British str., for Saigon.
 8, Khedive, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Mogul, British str., for Thursday Island.
 8, Nanking, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
 8, Tailee, German str., for Moji.
 9, Bombay, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Kokura Maru, Jap. str., for Ujina.
 9, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Ghazee, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Pique, H.B.M. cruiser, for Takao.
 10, Foyle, British str., for Nagasaki.
 10, Activ, Danish str., for Pakhoi.
 10, Moldava, British str., for Canton.
 10, Fort Stuart, British ship, for New York.
 10, Esang, British str., for Canton.
 10, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Glenavon, British str., for London.
 10, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 10, Lyeemooon, German str., for Canton.
 10, Martha, German str., for Swatow.
 10, Produce, Norw. str., for K'notzu.
 10, Tsinan, British str., for Foochow.
 11, Ask, Danish str., for Amoy.
 11, Benlarig, British str., for Nagasaki.
 11, Cam, British str., for Kobe.
 11, Frigga, German str., for Yokohama.
 11, Guildhall, British str., for Kobe.
 11, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.
 11, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 11, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
 11, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
 11, Wuotan, German str., for Amoy.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *China*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—
 Dr. G. H. B. Wright and wife, Messrs. Aubrey Fair and F. A. Wendt, and 152 Chinese.
 Per *Haitan*, str., from Coast Ports.—Mr. Gosling, Rev. and Mrs. P. Kammerer and two children, Rev. and Mrs. Ziegler and 2 children.
 Per *Taisang*, str., from Shanghai.—Lieut. Carrill, R.N., Mr. Wong.
 Per *Lightning*, str., from Calcutta.—Mr. and Mrs. Tremearne, Mr. W. J. L. Forrest.
 Per *Melbourne*, str., for Hongkong from Marseilles.—Revs. Petit, Daragon, Cellard, Marut, Jacquenier. From Colombo.—Mr. Leung Moon Chuck. From Singapore.—Mr. Percival. From Saigon.—Mrs. Crusefond, Mrs. Martin, Messrs. Klogs and Li. For Shanghai from Marseilles.—Messrs. Hoerter, de Cologan, Batista. From

Aden.—Mr. Morin. From Singapore.—Mrs. Remond, Mr. Launay. From Saigon.—Messrs. Grille and Clair. For Kobe from Marseilles.—Mr. C. Maneini, Rev. Gelay. From Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Keick and 3 children, Messrs. Matland and Ayashe. From Saigon.—Mr. Tien Suan Duong. For Yokohama from Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. Innigo, Revs. Daumer and Billing, Mr. Lounkiewitch. From Colombo.—Mr. Alex. Thaler. From Singapore.—Messrs. Ho-wood Young, de Monchy, Abdulla, Salter, and Seiyasaiwa. From Saigon.—Messrs. Laperre and Artus.

Per *Glenavon*, str., from Foochow.—Messrs. Boswell, Russell and Abraham, Mr. and Mrs. Bowden and Mrs. Adam.

Per *Bombay*, str., from Penang for Hongkong.—Mr. J. Shand. For Shanghai.—Mr. M. Campbell.

Per *Frigga*, str., from Singapore.—Mr. T. Brettsneider, and 205 Chinese.

Per *Khedive*, str., for Hongkong from Brindisi.—Mr. J. H. Lewis. From Gibraltar.—Sub-Lieut. W. S. Atlay, R.N. From Bombay.—Rev. E. N. Unangst and Mr. M. Kapaldia. From Colombo.—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Young. From Singapore.—Messrs. Lim Yam Sing, A. J. McClure. For Shanghai from London.—Mr. N. R. Lagerholm. For Peking from Batavia.—Messrs. F. M. Knobel and J. G. van Laer.

Per *Bengal*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong.—Miss Shaw, Messrs. J. H. Beach, J. F. Dredge, and J. P. Cottam. For Penang.—Messrs. A. Stewart and Ma Sin War. For Bombay.—Messrs. M. M. Mehta and Kin San. For London via Marseilles.—Capt. J. McEwan. For London.—Capt. C. Cameron, Miss Bennett and Mr. J. Sefton.

Per *Verona*, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong.—Mrs. Cox, Mr. R. Nicholson. For Bombay.—Capt. J. Nicholson.

Per *Siam*, str., from Kobe for Hongkong.—Dr. J. A. Greig, Miss Maki, Messrs. F. Barmeister, J. Wallace, F. Laycock. For London.—Mrs. J. A. Greig and child.

DEPARTED.

Per *Oxus*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore.—Messrs. L. Castro, Yap Hop Jean, W. J. Blackhall, Cornett, and Nishimura. For Marseilles.—Messrs. F. J. Monserrat, A. I. Serpa, J. Perignat, F. J. Hunter, and Rodolph Ehrsam. For Shanghai from Marseilles.—Mr. and Mrs. Vita and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. Hovill, Mr. and Mrs. Amplett, Messrs. Maltby, Rapail de Lazo, Titi, Pitault, Sauter, and J. Eysa. From Yokohama.—Mrs. Gally and infant, Messrs. Adet and Horegoski. From Nagasaki.—Messrs. Moret, Shrogl, Thomas, Caro, and Cotrion. For Singapore from Shanghai.—Messrs. H. Metman and H. Michel, Mrs. Hakashima and 2 children. From Nagasaki.—Mrs. Tsurugama, Mr. Jagi. For Saigon from Nagasaki.—Messrs. Simon, Pinel, Lecomedre, and Le Bars.

Per *Empress of India*, str., for Amoy.—Mr. H. Pinckney. For Shanghai.—Lieut. J. H. Datham, Messrs. R. Eiswaldt and son, J. W. Copmann, Bornemann, Ho Wing. For Nagasaki.—Mr. D. Haywood. For Kobe.—Capt. Bentinck, Messrs. R. Fuhrmann, and Granville Sharp. For Yokohama.—Capt. Hunt, Lieuts. Lewin and Power, Sur.-Capt. Borrowdale, Messrs. Volker, E. A. Stanton, L. G. MacNair, H. Smith, Major and Mrs. Noel and child. For Vancouver.—Messrs. John Beckett, Jesse Simmons, H. Nash, F. Phillips, G. H. Cooper, H. Triscott, Richard S. Bond, and Harry Payne. For New York.—Mr. and Mrs. Wong He Chong and son. For Liverpool.—Capt. Anderson. For London from Shanghai.—Mr. G. C. Turner. From Kobe.—Mr. T. Taylor. From Yokohama.—Mr. J. S. Black.

Per *Amur*, str., for Manila.—Mr. E. W. Blodgett, Mr. J. M. Elliott (American Consul).

Per *City of Peking*, str., for Yokohama.—Miss E. M. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Acheson and infant, Messrs. Chew Soy and Wong Wai Yung. For San Francisco.—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Crawley. For Panama.—Mr. José Rafail Conturias.

Per *Glenavon*, str., from Shanghai for London.—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bowman, Messrs. T. Russell, Abraham, O. Boswell, and Mrs. Adams. From Hongkong for Singapore.—Messrs. J. A. Barretto, J. M. de Castro Basto, and Miss J. Murdock. For London.—Lieut. F. Carvill, R.N., Messrs. T. Griffith, and R. Crathorne.